

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT 09:09:02

2 COUNTY OF RAMSEY SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

3 - - - - -

4

5 THE STATE OF MINNESOTA,
6 BY HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, III,
7 ITS ATTORNEY GENERAL

7 AND

8 BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF
9 MINNESOTA,

PLAINTIFFS,

FILE NO. C1-94-8565

10

VS.

11

12 PHILLIP MORRIS INCORPORATED, R.J.
13 REYNOLDS TOBACCO COMPANY, BROWN &
14 WILLIAMSON TOBACCO CORPORATION,
15 B.A.T. INDUSTRIES P.L.C., LORILLARD
16 TOBACCO COMPANY, THE AMERICAN
17 TOBACCO COMPANY, LIGGETT GROUP, INC.,
18 THE COUNCIL FOR TOBACCO RESEARCH-U.S.A.,
19 INC., AND THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE, INC.,
20 DEFENDANTS.

21 - - - - -

22

23 VOLUME #

24 DEPOSITION OF

25 KEVIN J. GRAHAM, M.D.

July 30, 1997

9:00 a.m.

26

27 REPORTED BY: KATHY L. SOPER
28 RPR, CSR, CALIF. CSR 8519
29 620 PLYMOUTH BUILDING
30 MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402

2 at the Law Offices of Robins, Kaplan, Miller &
3 Ciresi, 2800 LaSalle Plaza, Minneapolis, Minnesota
4 55402, commencing at 9:00 a.m., on the 30th day of
5 July, 1997, before Kathy L. Soper, a Notary Public
6 and Certified Professional Reporter.

7 * * * *

8 A P P E A R A N C E S

9 On Behalf of the Plaintiffs:

10 Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi
11 2800 LaSalle Plaza
12 800 LaSalle Avenue
13 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

14 BY: Jon Eisberg

15 On Behalf of Philip Morris Incorporated:

16 Dorsey & Whitney
17 Pillsbury Center South
18 220 South Sixth Street
19 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1498

20 BY: Mark Ginder

21 On Behalf of Lorillard Tobacco Company:

22 Shook, Hardy & Bacon
23 One Kansas City Place
24 1200 Main Street
25 Kansas City, Missouri 64105

BY: Edward H. Sheppard
Carol J. Smith

23

24

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1 KEVIN GRAHAM, M.D.,
2 called as a witness, was duly sworn and
3 testified as follows:

4

5 EXAMINATION

09:09:20

6 BY MR. SHEPPARD:

7 Q. Would you please state your name for the record. 09:09:22
8 A. My name is Dr. Kevin J. Graham, M.D. 09:09:26
9 Q. And you are aware that you have been identified by 09:09:28
10 the plaintiffs in this lawsuit which we are dealing 09:09:32
11 as an expert witness? 09:09:34
12 A. Yes. 09:09:34
13 Q. Are you personally acquainted with any of the other 09:09:38
14 expert witnesses, medical clinicians who have been 09:09:42
15 identified? 09:09:42
16 A. Yes. 09:09:42
17 Q. Which ones are you personally acquainted with? 09:09:44
18 A. Dr. Scott Davies and Dr. Barbara Bowers. 09:09:50
19 Q. And the source of that acquaintanceship? 09:09:54
20 A. Dr. Scott Davies is a staff pulmonary physician at 09:10:00
21 Hennepin County Medical Center. As I did my 09:10:04
22 residency there I became familiar with him at that 09:10:06
23 time. 09:10:06
24 Dr. Barbara Bowers is a clinical 09:10:12
25 oncologist who we have, occasionally, common 09:10:18

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1 patients in the setting at Abbott Northwestern 09:10:22
2 Hospital. 09:10:22
3 Q. Okay. She is on the staff at the same hospital 09:10:24
4 where you are principally on staff? 09:10:26
5 A. Yes, sir. 09:10:28
6 Q. Are you aware she has given a deposition in this 09:10:30
7 case recently? 09:10:30
8 A. Yes, sir. 09:10:30

9 Q. Have you talked with her since her deposition? 09:10:32

10 A. I saw her in the hall yesterday. 09:10:36

11 Q. And did you speak with her at that time? 09:10:38

12 A. Yes, sir. 09:10:38

13 Q. Would you tell me the content of that conversation 09:10:40

14 as it related to the deposition. 09:10:42

15 A. Our conversation, I asked her how the experience was 09:10:48

16 and was it a learning experience? Her reply was not 09:10:54

17 really a learning experience. 09:10:56

18 Q. Did you talk about that deposition further? 09:10:58

19 A. No, sir. 09:10:58

20 Q. How about the other physician, have you talked with 09:11:04

21 him about the deposition? 09:11:04

22 A. No, sir. 09:11:04

23 Q. Let me go back to Dr. Bowers for a moment. Did she 09:11:16

24 relate to you any of the questions or answers during 09:11:18

25 that deposition? 09:11:20

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1 A. No, sir. 09:11:20

2 Q. Other than counsel for the plaintiffs in this case, 09:11:26

3 have you talked with anyone about the deposition 09:11:28

4 that you are going to give today? 09:11:30

5 A. No, sir. 09:11:30

6 Q. You have given depositions before, I think, based 09:11:36

7 upon the information furnished? 09:11:36

8 A. Yes, sir. 09:11:36

9 Q. And let me briefly run through that. 09:11:40

10 You gave a deposition in a medical 09:11:42

11 malpractice case here in Minneapolis? 09:11:44

12 A. Yes. 09:11:44
13 Q. Have you given depositions in any other medical 09:11:46
14 malpractice cases? 09:11:48
15 A. No, sir. 09:11:48
16 Q. Okay. Have you personally been a defendant in any 09:11:50
17 malpractice case? 09:11:52
18 A. No, sir. 09:11:52
19 Q. Have you given any depositions where you have 09:11:56
20 discussed medical or scientific issues other than in 09:11:58
21 that medical malpractice case? 09:12:00
22 A. No, sir. 09:12:02
23 Q. Would you briefly tell us about the content or the 09:12:12
24 issues in that medical malpractice case and what you 09:12:16
25 were asked to address. 09:12:16

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1 A. There was a patient who had been treated, had been 09:12:22
2 evaluated in an emergency room for chest discomfort, 09:12:26
3 who was subsequently, after evaluation, discharged 09:12:30
4 who came back to another emergency room a day or two 09:12:34
5 later and was subsequently -- had decompensation of 09:12:40
6 a cardiac status and was taken for bypass surgery. 09:12:46
7 I became his treating physician 09:12:46
8 approximately six to nine months after the bypass 09:12:50
9 operation. I was subpoenaed as a material witness 09:12:54
10 to testify to his current medical condition. 09:12:58
11 Q. Okay. Did you give any testimony concerning issues 09:13:02
12 relating to the standard of care? 09:13:02
13 A. No, sir. 09:13:04

14 Q. Do you remember the style of that case or the 09:13:14
15 parties' name? 09:13:14
16 A. I do not at this time. I could -- if you need that, 09:13:20
17 I could have my secretary furnish that. 09:13:24
18 Q. You would have records that would reflect that 09:13:26
19 information in your office? 09:13:26
20 A. Yes, sir. 09:13:28
21 Q. Let me, before we get into some of the exhibits, 09:13:32
22 talk to you just a little bit more about the 09:13:36
23 deposition you have given. 09:13:36
24 You have given some depositions in a 09:13:38
25 property dispute case? 09:13:40

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1 A. Yes, sir. 09:13:40
2 Q. Did that involve any medical issues? 09:13:42
3 A. No, sir. 09:13:42
4 Q. And then something was disclosed to us in a 09:13:44
5 bankruptcy case where evaluation of an asset? 09:13:48
6 A. Yes, sir. 09:13:48
7 Q. What was that asset? 09:13:50
8 A. It was some stock in my father's former company 09:13:54
9 called the Graham Investment Company. 09:13:56
10 Q. That's not a medical device or medical company? 09:14:00
11 A. No, sir. 09:14:00
12 Q. Have you ever given deposition in any kind of 09:14:08
13 lawsuit as an expert witness for either the 09:14:12
14 plaintiff or the defendant, other than in this 09:14:14
15 litigation? 09:14:14
16 A. No, sir. 09:14:16

17 Q. How was it that you got involved in this litigation? 09:14:20
18 A. Mr. Eisberg is a patient of mine and we have had 09:14:28
19 certain discussions about medical issues and I think 09:14:32
20 he plus other people recommended him (sic) to the 09:14:36
21 legal team. 09:14:38
22 Q. So you have a personal and a professional 09:14:44
23 relationship with plaintiffs' counsel? 09:14:46
24 A. Yes, sir. 09:14:46
25 Q. Have you ever met with any of these other -- you 09:14:54

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1 have identified two of them. Have you ever met with 09:14:56
2 any other of the expert witnesses and discussed the 09:14:58
3 issues in this litigation? 09:15:00
4 A. No. 09:15:20
5 (Defendants' Exhibits 1751 and 1752 09:16:10
6 were marked for identification.) 09:16:12
7 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
8 Q. I am going to hand you what the reporter has marked 09:16:20
9 as Deposition Exhibit 1751 and ask you if that is 09:16:24
10 the current curriculum vitae pertaining to you. 09:16:28
11 A. Yes, sir. 09:16:30
12 Q. Is that current, to your knowledge? 09:16:32
13 A. There was, I think, an abstract that I must 09:16:40
14 apologize, did not make the list of the articles 09:16:50
15 because of -- I think has since been furnished to 09:16:58
16 you, as far as one of my publications. 09:17:00
17 Q. Which one was that, just -- you have one, I am sure 09:17:04
18 it's the same, but -- or what was its subject? 09:17:10

19 A. It was the differences in presentation of coronary 09:17:12
 20 artery disease by gender. 09:17:14
 21 Q. That was an abstract? 09:17:20
 22 A. Yes, sir. Published in the Journal of the American 09:17:28
 23 College of Cardiology.
 24 Q. With that exception, is the other information on 09:17:30
 25 Exhibit 1751 current and up to date? 09:17:34

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1 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 09:17:36
 2 Q. Now, according to that CV, you are on the staff at 09:17:54
 3 Abbott Northwestern Hospital here in Minneapolis? 09:17:58
 4 A. Yes, sir. 09:17:58
 5 Q. And you hold the title, among other things, of 09:18:02
 6 director of marketing for at least a part of that 09:18:04
 7 hospital? 09:18:04
 8 A. Yes, sir. 09:18:06
 9 Q. Okay. And what part is that? 09:18:08
 10 A. The cardiovascular services division is the 09:18:14
 11 representation or the division of the hospital 09:18:20
 12 concerned with cardiovascular disease. 09:18:24
 13 Q. And what do you do as director of marketing for that 09:18:30
 14 organization? 09:18:30
 15 A. As far as director of strategic planning and 09:18:36
 16 marketing is to direct or help formulate plans for 09:18:44
 17 the business aspects of the delivery of 09:18:56
 18 cardiovascular care within the large network of 09:19:00
 19 hospitals and clinics that we provide -- physicians 09:19:04
 20 that we provide care to. 09:19:06
 21 Q. So what -- could you give us a brief description as 09:19:10

22 to what that entails, what you would do day to day 09:19:14
23 with that. 09:19:14
24 A. In a day-to-day standpoint, it is mostly in a 09:19:20
25 strategic planning rather than a direct marketing 09:19:22

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1 effort. 09:19:24
2 It is coordinating efforts of many 09:19:28
3 different facets of cardiovascular care from 09:19:32
4 prevention to diagnosis to treatments. 09:19:34
5 The Minneapolis Heart Institute is 44 09:19:38
6 cardiovascular physicians who we are the largest 09:19:42
7 provider of cardiac care in the Upper Midwest and we 09:19:46
8 provide outreach services to 28 communities in 09:19:50
9 Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. 09:19:52
10 And it's coordinating care with primary 09:19:56
11 care physicians so that there is a unified delivery 09:20:02
12 of cardiovascular care at both the specialty and the 09:20:06
13 primary care level. 09:20:08
14 Q. So this does involve clinical issues as well as 09:20:10
15 business issues? 09:20:12
16 A. Yes, sir. 09:20:12
17 Q. And how much, approximately, of your professional 09:20:20
18 time is devoted to those duties? 09:20:20
19 A. I would say 3, 3 to 5 percent. 09:20:26
20 Q. Now, we discovered by reading the Wall Street 09:20:36
21 Journal that you are occasionally quoted in the 09:20:38
22 media on issues related to cardiology. 09:20:42
23 Is that because of your involvement with 09:20:44

24 this cardiovascular services division and its 09:20:48
25 marketing efforts? 09:20:48

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1 A. The cardiovascular services division is a unified 09:20:52
2 effort between Abbott Northwestern Hospital, the 09:20:56
3 physicians, and it's just about two and a half years 09:20:58
4 old now. 09:21:00

5 The Minneapolis Heart Institute has been a 09:21:02
6 high profile focused on quality care subspecialty -- 09:21:08
7 single care subspecialty cardiac care, and it has 09:21:12
8 been a leader nationally in select areas of 09:21:16
9 cardiovascular care. 09:21:20

10 Therefore, knowing other providers of 09:21:22
11 similar quality nationally has given us somewhat of 09:21:28
12 a national presence, and myself, as well as other 09:21:32
13 members of our group, are occasionally quoted in the 09:21:38
14 national press who are talking to groups of our 09:21:46
15 like, much like Midwest Heart Institute or 09:21:52
16 MidAmerica Heart Institute in Kansas City. 09:21:52

17 Q. Are you the public spokesperson for your particular 09:21:56
18 medical group? 09:21:56

19 A. No, sir. 09:21:56

20 Q. I think that Wall Street Journal quotation was in 09:22:02
21 respect to some comment dealing with the study of 09:22:04
22 viruses and cardiovascular disease, if I remember 09:22:08
23 correctly; is that right? 09:22:08

24 A. Yes, sir. 09:22:10

25 Q. Have you ever made a specific study of that? 09:22:12

1 A. No, sir. 09:22:12

2 Q. Is there any ongoing research that your group or 09:22:14

3 facility is doing in that area? 09:22:16

4 A. No, sir. 09:22:16

5 Q. Do you think that's a promising area of research? 09:22:20

6 A. I think it is one of many areas of research that are 09:22:26

7 being looked at in the field of atherosclerosis. 09:22:30

8 Q. Would you characterize it as a promising area? 09:22:34

9 A. I think that it is an area, as in most research, 09:22:42

10 that at times can be promising. The delivery of the 09:22:46

11 promise can be somewhat less. 09:22:48

12 Q. But worthwhile to explore, at least at the moment? 09:22:52

13 A. As most scientific endeavors are. 09:22:56

14 Q. Okay. You had a period of time between your 09:23:00

15 graduation from college and enrollment in medical 09:23:02

16 school, according to the curriculum vitae. 09:23:04

17 Did you work in a medical or a legal area 09:23:06

18 during that time? 09:23:08

19 A. No, sir. 09:23:08

20 Q. What type of -- did you do some work during that 09:23:10

21 period of time? 09:23:10

22 A. Yes, sir. 09:23:12

23 Q. In what area? 09:23:12

24 A. I worked on a farm. 09:23:14

25 Q. Okay. Was that a family farm? 09:23:18

1 A. Yes, sir. 09:23:20

2 Q. Now, a period of time you worked briefly, at least, 09:23:26

3 in Colorado? 09:23:26

4 A. Yes, sir. 09:23:26

5 Q. At a nursing home or for a nursing home? 09:23:30

6 A. No, it was a combined clinic hospital emergency room 09:23:38

7 and nursing home. 09:23:38

8 Q. Did you at one time have a medical license in 09:23:40

9 Colorado? 09:23:40

10 A. Yes, sir. 09:23:42

11 Q. Is that still current? 09:23:44

12 A. No, sir. 09:23:44

13 Q. Other than in Minnesota and Colorado, have you had 09:23:48

14 medical licenses, whether current or not current, in 09:23:52

15 other states? 09:23:52

16 A. No, sir. 09:23:54

17 Q. Under Present Appointment you describe yourself as 09:24:14

18 a, quote, "consulting cardiologist," unquote. 09:24:18

19 A. Yes, sir. 09:24:18

20 Q. Are all the cardiologists that work in this group 09:24:20

21 consulting cardiologists? 09:24:22

22 A. Yes, sir. 09:24:24

23 Q. And you are the director of preventive cardiology? 09:24:28

24 A. Yes, sir. 09:24:28

25 Q. Is that kind of a subfocus within your group or how 09:24:32

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1 would you describe it? 09:24:34

2 A. Could you define the question a little bit further? 09:24:36

3	Q.	Sure. You are the listed -- in your CV list	09:24:40
4		yourself as director of preventive cardiology,	09:24:44
5		right?	09:24:44
6	A.	(Witness indicating in the affirmative.)	09:24:46
7	Q.	Tell me how it is that -- is that a position within	09:24:50
8		the group that only one person has?	09:24:52
9	A.	Yes, sir.	09:24:52
10	Q.	And you are still in that position?	09:24:56
11	A.	Yes, sir.	09:24:56
12	Q.	Is that a particular focus of your practice, then?	09:25:00
13	A.	Yes, sir.	09:25:02
14	Q.	And has that been true since before 1992?	09:25:06
15	A.	Yes, sir.	09:25:10
16	Q.	When did you first actually start practicing	09:25:12
17		cardiology?	09:25:14
18	A.	I have been with the Minneapolis Heart Institute for	09:25:16
19		approximately eight and a half years.	09:25:18
20	Q.	Did you practice somewhere else cardiology before	09:25:22
21		that?	09:25:22
22	A.	I came from fellowship at the University of	09:25:28
23		Minnesota directly to the Minneapolis Heart	09:25:32
24		Institute.	
25	Q.	So the entirety of your practice in the specialty of	09:25:36

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1		cardiology has been with this one organization?	09:25:40
2	A.	Yes, sir.	09:25:40
3	Q.	And it's been -- you have practiced, then, for about	09:25:44
4		eight and a half years?	09:25:44

5 A. Yes, sir. 09:25:46
6 Q. Now, you also are listed as the CEO of a ProMedicos 09:25:56
7 Systems, Inc.? 09:25:56
8 A. Medicos. 09:25:58
9 Q. Sorry. What is that all about? 09:26:00
10 A. ProMedicos is a company that another member of my 09:26:06
11 group and I founded to implement the delivery of, 09:26:12
12 again, practice of medicine focusing on a best 09:26:18
13 practice model sharing it with specialty physicians 09:26:22
14 networked with primary care physicians in order to 09:26:26
15 deliver state-of-the-art medical care wherever a 09:26:30
16 patient presents. 09:26:32
17 Q. Okay. Is that, then, an incorporated business? 09:26:34
18 A. Yes, sir. 09:26:36
19 Q. Which there are shares and shareholders? 09:26:38
20 A. Yes, sir. 09:26:38
21 Q. Are all the shareholders physicians? 09:26:42
22 A. No, sir. 09:26:46
23 Q. Is that a publicly-traded company? 09:26:48
24 A. No, sir. 09:26:48
25 Q. Privately-held company? 09:26:50

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1 A. Yes, sir. 09:26:50
2 Q. Are there shareholders that are physicians in other 09:26:52
3 parts of the United States other than Minnesota and 09:26:56
4 Wisconsin? 09:26:56
5 A. No, sir. 09:26:56
6 Q. Have you ever been part of a nationwide physicians 09:27:06
7 organization originating out of Atlanta? 09:27:08

8 A. Yes, sir. 09:27:08

9 Q. Are you still a part of that? 09:27:10

10 A. Yes, sir. 09:27:10

11 Q. What's its name? 09:27:10

12 A. The National Cardiology Network. 09:27:12

13 Q. Is that in any way related to the business we were 09:27:16

14 just talking about? 09:27:18

15 A. No, sir. 09:27:18

16 Q. Tell me about the National Cardiology Network 09:27:26

17 briefly. 09:27:26

18 A. The National Cardiology Network was founded several 09:27:32

19 years ago by a physician named William Knoff from 09:27:36

20 Atlanta looking to -- basically, to cardiology 09:27:42

21 groups who had a focus of volume and quality and who 09:27:48

22 focused around collection of data regarding their 09:27:54

23 practices in an effort to use that data to advance 09:28:00

24 the clinical practice of cardiology. 09:28:04

25 Q. Okay. Approximately how many persons belong to that 09:28:12

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1 national network? 09:28:12

2 A. There are currently 38 members nationally of the 09:28:16

3 National Cardiology Network. 09:28:18

4 Q. Is it a group membership or a personal membership? 09:28:24

5 In other words, do you belong to it or do you and 09:28:26

6 other people -- does your group belong to it? 09:28:28

7 A. A unit of the Minneapolis Heart Institute at 09:28:30

8 Abbott Northwestern, there is physicians groups, 09:28:38

9 cardiology groups and surgery groups with a hospital 09:28:42

10 that joined as a unit to the National Cardiology 09:28:46
 11 Network.
 12 Q. So who is -- if one had a roster of that, how would 09:28:50
 13 your membership be reflected? 09:28:52
 14 A. I think it's reflected as the Minneapolis Heart 09:28:56
 15 Institute/Abbott Northwestern. 09:28:56
 16 Q. Okay. Now, are all the cardiologists that practiced 09:29:04
 17 at Abbott Northwest members of your particular 09:29:06
 18 group? 09:29:06
 19 A. No, sir. 09:29:08
 20 Q. Is Abbott Northwest affiliated with the medical 09:29:12
 21 school in Minneapolis? 09:29:14
 22 A. It is a clinical affiliation with the University of 09:29:18
 23 Minnesota medical school in that students rotate 09:29:24
 24 through for medical externships through 09:29:28
 25 Abbott Northwestern. 09:29:28

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1 Abbott Northwestern also has their own 09:29:32
 2 independent residency program in internal medicine 09:29:36
 3 and the -- we have a -- in our cardiology practice 09:29:42
 4 an interventional cardiology fellow through an 09:29:46
 5 educational program. 09:29:48
 6 Q. That's one fellow during a certain period of time? 09:29:52
 7 A. Yes, sir. 09:29:54
 8 Q. Would that, then, be the only training program for 09:30:00
 9 cardiologists at Abbott Northwest? 09:30:02
 10 A. Yes, sir. 09:30:04
 11 Q. And you have a clinical appointment with the medical 09:30:12
 12 school? 09:30:12

13 A. Yes, sir. 09:30:14
14 Q. And that gets you involved with, I assume, this 09:30:18
15 fellow that comes there, and are you also involved 09:30:24
16 with students and internal medicine residents? 09:30:28
17 A. Yes, sir. 09:30:28
18 MR. EISBERG: Wait for him to finish the 09:30:30
19 question before you answer. 09:30:32
20 THE WITNESS: I am sorry. Okay. 09:30:34
21 MR. EISBERG: Makes it easier for our 09:30:34
22 court reporter. 09:30:36
23 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
24 Q. Why don't I go back and start again. 09:30:38
25 How much time do you spend on your 09:30:40

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20

1 clinical appointment from the medical school? 09:30:42
2 A. I would say 5 percent. 09:30:46
3 Q. Before I leave these subjects I want to make sure I 09:30:56
4 have gotten the information about this company that 09:31:02
5 you and another doctor have. Who is the other 09:31:04
6 doctor? 09:31:04
7 A. Dr. Jon Lesser. 09:31:06
8 Q. Is he also a cardiologist? 09:31:08
9 A. Yes, sir. 09:31:08
10 Q. Tell me how this company functions. 09:31:10
11 A. It's a -- it's at this point just a small start-up 09:31:18
12 company. We have, in the Allina Health system, a 09:31:24
13 chest pain management decision support tool that has 09:31:34
14 been running for approximately a year and a half and 09:31:40

15 we are just in the process now of adding other 09:31:42
16 decision support tools to that roster. 09:31:44
17 Q. And you are going to have to explain to us lay 09:31:48
18 people what a decision support tool is and how it 09:31:50
19 relates to clinical practice, if it does. 09:31:54
20 A. A decision support tool, a computerized decision 09:31:58
21 support tool, helps bring expert guidance to the 09:32:08
22 point of patient presentation, and it is not a -- it 09:32:16
23 is an attempt to open or focus knowledge on a 09:32:26
24 particular symptom complex and help somebody who is 09:32:32
25 in that -- a physician who is seeing the patient at 09:32:38

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1 the time make appropriate decisions regarding that 09:32:42
2 patient's care. 09:32:42
3 Q. All right. See if I can feed back to you what I 09:32:46
4 heard you say and you can tell me whether I am in 09:32:50
5 the ballpark on my thinking or not. 09:32:52
6 This would be a -- this is a computerized 09:32:56
7 data bank of information concerning clinical 09:32:58
8 information and issues that can be accessed by a 09:33:02
9 doctor who is actually caring for the patient who 09:33:08
10 affords guidance to him in that care? 09:33:10
11 A. Yes, sir. And the physician who is seeing the 09:33:12
12 patient, actually, that data becomes part of the 09:33:16
13 database and the database then changes depending on 09:33:20
14 what happens to that patient and the outcomes of 09:33:24
15 that patient. 09:33:24
16 Q. Okay. So where is this support tool functioning? 09:33:28
17 A. In the -- at Minneapolis Heart Institute, Abbott 09:33:34

18 Northwestern Hospital, the New Ulm Medical Center. 09:33:38

19 Q. Okay. That's a separate medical facility? 09:33:42

20 A. That's a facility approximately 100 miles away. 09:33:48

21 It's an alpha test. 09:33:50

22 Q. So how long has this system been operational? 09:33:54

23 A. Approximately 18 months. 09:33:56

24 Q. Did you start off with data that was already 09:34:02

25 available? How did the system have the data at the 09:34:08

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1 onset to be -- 09:34:10

2 A. We did a pilot validation study on approximately 650 09:34:16

3 patients, then validated for patient safety and 09:34:24

4 predictability of the data to show what we wanted to 09:34:32

5 show. 09:34:32

6 Q. All right. So the data that you accumulated to put 09:34:36

7 in the system originally was data that your 09:34:40

8 organization had accumulated? 09:34:42

9 A. Yes, sir. 09:34:42

10 Q. Okay. You didn't have a prepackaged software system 09:34:46

11 that already had the data in it? 09:34:48

12 A. No, sir. 09:34:48

13 Q. All right. Now, are these all patients that have 09:34:50

14 some type of cardiac complaints or suspected cardiac 09:34:54

15 complaints? 09:34:54

16 A. Suspected cardiac complaints, chest pain. 09:34:58

17 Q. That is the complaint or has other symptoms in the 09:35:04

18 system? 09:35:04

19 A. In this module, the -- it's a chest pain 09:35:12

20 guideline/decision support tool. 09:35:14
21 Q. Okay. I take it that you have aspirations of 09:35:20
22 expanding it to other clinical symptoms and 09:35:22
23 presentation? 09:35:22
24 A. Yes, sir. 09:35:24
25 Q. But right now it's limited to chest pain? 09:35:28

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1 A. Yes. 09:35:30
2 Q. And medical management and treatment of that 09:35:32
3 symptom? 09:35:32
4 A. The medical diagnosis and management. 09:35:36
5 Q. Okay. Now, is that system, then, kept within the 09:35:50
6 hospital or within the group or -- 09:35:52
7 A. It is -- resides on a server and then it is accessed 09:35:58
8 by workstations. 09:36:00
9 Q. Okay. Right there in the hospital, then? 09:36:02
10 A. The hospital, in the Heart Institute, which is 09:36:04
11 contiguous to the hospital, and in the New Ulm 09:36:10
12 Medical Center.
13 Q. So, for example, if a doctor is in the emergency 09:36:14
14 room on a Saturday night and somebody comes in with 09:36:18
15 chest pain, he or she can access this data and use 09:36:20
16 it to -- as a source of information to make a 09:36:24
17 decision? 09:36:24
18 A. We have not placed it in the emergency room at 09:36:28
19 Abbott Northwestern yet. We have been alpha testing 09:36:32
20 it with the cardiologists only to this point. 09:36:34
21 Q. So access is presently limited to cardiologists? 09:36:38
22 A. Cardiologists in the Twin -- in Abbott Northwestern 09:36:40

23 and the Heart Institute. The alpha site for testing 09:36:44
24 for primary care physicians is the New Ulm Medical 09:36:48
25 Center, where it is available there. 09:36:52

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1 Q. And tell us what geographical location that medical 09:36:54
2 center is 100 miles away. What city is it in? 09:36:58
3 A. It's in New Ulm, Minnesota. 09:37:00
4 Q. Is that also an affiliate of the same health care 09:37:02
5 system that Abbott Northwest belongs to? 09:37:06
6 A. Abbott Northwestern is a member of the Allina Health 09:37:12
7 Care System. I believe that the Allina Health Care 09:37:16
8 System has a management contract with the New Ulm 09:37:18
9 Hospital. I am not exactly sure of their exact 09:37:22
10 management structure. Their Allina Health System 09:37:24
11 has a number of different ownership and/or 09:37:26
12 management relationships with various hospitals 09:37:32
13 around the state. 09:37:32
14 Q. Okay. Well, in fact, in other states as well, 09:37:36
15 correct? 09:37:36
16 A. Possibly Western Wisconsin, but not -- it's not a 09:37:40
17 national chain. 09:37:42
18 Q. Is that a publicly-traded concern? 09:37:44
19 A. Allina and the -- is a not-for-profit. 09:37:52
20 Q. Is it operated by any particular group of people? 09:37:56
21 A. It is operated by a -- not-for-profit is a 09:38:02
22 publicly-scrutinized board and a management team 09:38:10
23 that is hired by that board. 09:38:10
24 Q. It doesn't have a particular religious affiliation, 09:38:14

25 for example, or something like that? 09:38:18

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1 A. Not that I am aware of. 09:38:20
2 Q. Okay. Is your particular medical group of 09:38:20
3 cardiologists also part of that health care system? 09:38:24
4 A. Yes, sir. 09:38:24
5 Q. Are you and this company presently accumulating 09:38:38
6 data, then, that would enable you to expand this 09:38:40
7 computerized support tool beyond just chest pain? 09:38:44
8 A. The data that we accumulate on chest pain will not 09:38:56
9 allow us to go into other areas, per se. We will 09:39:00
10 have to accumulate the data. 09:39:02
11 Q. That's my question. Are you presently accumulating 09:39:04
12 data to go beyond the -- just the chest pain 09:39:08
13 treatment? 09:39:10
14 A. No, no, sir. 09:39:10
15 Q. Do you have plans to do that in the future? 09:39:16
16 A. Yes, sir. 09:39:16
17 Q. Now, you had indicated that this network that 09:39:28
18 originated in Atlanta, 38 members, had a focus on 09:39:32
19 data collection. 09:39:34
20 A. Yes. 09:39:36
21 Q. Do you remember that? Tell me some more about 09:39:38
22 that. What data did they collect and how did they 09:39:40
23 collect it and where does it presently reside? 09:39:42
24 A. The data that is collected is mostly hospital 09:39:48
25 procedural data at this time, number of procedures, 09:39:54

1 outcomes of procedures in a standardized fashion. 09:39:58

2 That is then the data warehousing point 09:40:04

3 and the reporting point is done through Duke 09:40:08

4 University at this time, to my knowledge. 09:40:08

5 Q. Okay. You know, if it comes a point during the 09:40:16

6 deposition you need to respond -- I didn't mention 09:40:18

7 that earlier -- to a page, you certainly feel 09:40:20

8 comfortable in doing that. 09:40:22

9 A. Thank you, but -- I will. 09:40:24

10 Q. Is that information and data publicly available? 09:40:28

11 A. I am not sure. 09:40:30

12 Q. If one was to go in to search for it through the 09:40:34

13 public available tools to find it, what would they 09:40:38

14 look for? 09:40:40

15 A. The National Cardiology Network database. 09:40:42

16 Q. And who is it at Duke University that is the 09:40:50

17 principal person in charge? 09:40:52

18 A. I am not sure of the person's name. 09:40:54

19 Q. Would it be someone within the Department of 09:41:00

20 Cardiology at Duke Medical School? 09:41:02

21 A. Possibly, but I am not sure who was doing the data 09:41:08

22 processing there. 09:41:10

23 Q. Now, what is your -- the nature of your involvement 09:41:18

24 with that organization beyond collecting data? 09:41:22

25 A. I have no formal role in the National Cardiology 09:41:28

1 Network.

2 Q. But you do have a formal -- a formal role in the 09:41:38

3 other organization, chest pain -- are the other 09:41:44

4 cardiologists there within your group, then, 09:41:48

5 affiliated with that or is it basically just you and 09:41:50

6 this other physician? 09:41:54

7 A. Sixteen members of the group have purchased a small 09:41:56

8 amount of stock in that company. 09:41:56

9 Q. The thought of this is this would be a company and 09:42:00

10 perhaps someday it might become an initial public 09:42:02

11 offering or something? 09:42:04

12 A. That is a possibility, but now it's just a very tiny 09:42:06

13 start-up company. 09:42:08

14 Q. Okay. Have you been involved in any other business 09:42:10

15 enterprises similar to that related to your medical 09:42:12

16 knowledge? 09:42:14

17 A. I have been an intermittent consultant giving talks 09:42:20

18 for various -- I give a lot of talks regarding 09:42:28

19 preventive cardiology, some of which are sponsored 09:42:30

20 by pharmaceutical industries. 09:42:36

21 I have been a consultant in the past two 09:42:42

22 years -- no longer currently -- a consultant for 09:42:48

23 Medtronic about a health care advisory board. 09:42:50

24 Q. That's on their medical devices? 09:42:54

25 A. No, it's just on a -- generally health care issues, 09:42:58

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1 larger health care issues not pertaining to any 09:43:00

2 particular device. 09:43:00

3 Q. Any others? 09:43:06

4 A. There are times where people will come and just ask 09:43:16
5 questions of things -- about certain things like 09:43:20
6 being in a place like the Heart Institute you become 09:43:22
7 peripherally involved in, but nothing formal 09:43:26
8 consulting or anything. 09:43:28
9 Q. In addition to the Wall Street Journal we ran 09:43:32
10 across, and I think we sent those up this way, some 09:43:36
11 articles -- or some articles that had references to 09:43:38
12 contacts with you and quotations from you, and you 09:43:40
13 do that as part of being a member of the Heart 09:43:44
14 Institute?
15 A. Yes, and as director of preventive cardiology. We 09:43:50
16 have a -- we have tried to establish a relationship 09:43:56
17 with the media so that we can let them know as 09:44:02
18 cardiac stories come out what is a good story, what 09:44:08
19 is not a good story. 09:44:10
20 Most of the discussions with the media 09:44:10
21 never make it into press or on television. 09:44:14
22 Q. And when you use the term "good story" are we 09:44:22
23 talking about a good story from a medical 09:44:24
24 standpoint, it's a medical story about something of 09:44:28
25 some significance? Is that the context you are 09:44:30

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1 using it? 09:44:30
2 A. Yes, we practice clinical medicine and we, I think, 09:44:40
3 feel good about commenting about clinical cardiology 09:44:48
4 stories that a lot of what sometimes comes out in 09:44:52
5 the popular press worries patients, concerns 09:44:56

6 patients, and we try and help them decide -- help 09:45:02
7 them focus on what is valid scientific -- 09:45:08
8 Q. Okay. 09:45:10
9 A. -- stories that are coming out. 09:45:12
10 Q. Most of those articles that we ran across were 09:45:18
11 comments to -- with the exception of the Wall Street 09:45:22
12 Journal article that just appeared recently were 09:45:24
13 comments in the Minneapolis papers. 09:45:26
14 Have there been other instances where, as 09:45:30
15 part of your effort to establish a relationship with 09:45:32
16 the media, you have been quoted by newspapers 09:45:34
17 outside the Wall Street Journal and the Minneapolis 09:45:38
18 paper? 09:45:38
19 A. Possibly, but I can't recall right off. 09:45:42
20 Q. Have you also attempted to establish kind of a media 09:45:50
21 relationship with the Wall Street Journal? 09:45:50
22 A. No, sir. 09:45:52
23 Q. They just kind of called you out of the blue on that 09:45:56
24 particular matter? 09:45:58
25 A. You know, different reporters will sometimes call, 09:46:04

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1 and just being in a national related prominent 09:46:10
2 cardiac group, will call and ask questions and it 09:46:16
3 just happens as it happens. 09:46:18
4 Q. And you said that you occasionally made talks for -- 09:46:30
5 at the behest of drug companies on preventive 09:46:34
6 cardiology. 09:46:34
7 I take it from the information that we 09:46:36
8 were provided preventive cardiology is your 09:46:38

9 principal professional focus? 09:46:40

10 A. I practice a full spectrum of clinical cardiology 09:46:46

11 including angioplasty, diagnostic catheterization, 09:46:50

12 consultive cardiology, pacemaker implantation, as 09:46:58

13 well as -- and preventive cardiology is a passion. 09:47:04

14 Q. Okay. And in conjunction with that passion, you 09:47:16

15 have made talks at the behest of drug companies, and 09:47:22

16 we will talk a little bit more about some of these 09:47:24

17 cholesterol-lowering drugs a little bit later. 09:47:28

18 Are those talks to the physicians or talks 09:47:30

19 to the general public or talks to some other groups? 09:47:32

20 A. I give talks to general groups, to physicians' 09:47:38

21 groups. The talks -- probably 20 to 30 talks to 09:47:46

22 general groups per year are not in any way sponsored 09:47:50

23 by the -- usually by the pharmaceutical industry. 09:47:54

24 We have a Minneapolis Heart Institute 09:48:00

25 Foundation which is responsible for education of the 09:48:04

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1 not only physicians but of the general public 09:48:08

2 regarding heart-related issues, and many of the 09:48:12

3 talks will be sponsored by the foundation. 09:48:18

4 Q. These would be talks in -- at least 20 to 30 talks a 09:48:24

5 year you might deliver to various groups are 09:48:28

6 sponsored by the foundation? 09:48:28

7 A. Or are arranged by the foundation. There is no 09:48:32

8 sponsorship to it, but they are just arranged. 09:48:34

9 Q. Okay. Now, then, in respect to discussions with the 09:48:46

10 lay public, who -- give me some examples of the type 09:48:50

11 of groups that you would speak to. 09:48:52
12 A. Oh, we have, usually, a biannual series of lectures 09:48:58
13 on -- that we will do evaluations of people's risk 09:49:04
14 factors and then have a series of speakers on, say, 09:49:06
15 four consecutive Tuesday nights, speak with a group 09:49:12
16 of from 100 to 300 people who sign up just to want 09:49:16
17 some general information regarding their cardiac 09:49:20
18 status in order to try and either avoid the first 09:49:24
19 heart attack or avoid a second one. 09:49:28
20 And so they are general education type 09:49:32
21 programs. Could be a Kiwanis Club at noontime, 09:49:38
22 could be many different things. 09:49:38
23 Q. And when you speak, you do this in your role as the 09:49:52
24 director of preventive cardiology? 09:49:54
25 A. That's how I am usually introduced. 09:49:56

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1 Q. And that's what you list on your business card? 09:50:00
2 A. Yes, sir. 09:50:00
3 Q. And how was it -- did they have a director of 09:50:08
4 preventive cardiology within your group prior to the 09:50:12
5 time that you assumed that position? 09:50:12
6 A. Yes, sir. 09:50:14
7 Q. So you replaced someone else? 09:50:16
8 A. Yes, sir. 09:50:16
9 Q. Who was that? 09:50:16
10 A. Dr. James Zavaral. 09:50:18
11 Q. Did you undergo any specialized additional training 09:50:22
12 to qualify for that position? 09:50:24
13 A. In my residence -- or my cardiac fellowship I was 09:50:30

14 mentored by Dr. Donald Hunninghake, 09:50:34
15 H-U-N-N-I-N-G-H-A-K-E, at the University of 09:50:42
16 Minnesota, who has a national prominence as a 09:50:46
17 preventive cardiologist, and my research focus in my 09:50:50
18 fellowship training was in preventive cardiology. 09:50:56
19 Q. Is that physician still with the University of 09:51:10
20 Minnesota?
21 A. Yes. 09:51:10
22 Q. Do you still communicate and keep in contact with 09:51:16
23 him about issues of preventive cardiology? 09:51:18
24 A. From time to time. 09:51:20
25 Q. Let me explore further some of the information that 09:51:30

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1 you have just provided. You said that your research 09:51:34
2 focus during your cardiology fellowship -- and that 09:51:36
3 was at the University of Minnesota? 09:51:38
4 A. Yes, sir. 09:51:38
5 Q. Was it preventive cardiology? 09:51:42
6 A. Yes, sir. 09:51:42
7 Q. What research did you conduct as part of that 09:51:46
8 interest and as part of fulfilling the requirements 09:51:48
9 for your fellowship? 09:51:48
10 A. We performed a full spectrum of both pharmaceutical 09:51:56
11 trials, working with newer agents to lower 09:52:02
12 cholesterol, as well as NIH, National Institute of 09:52:08
13 Health, sponsored larger trials. 09:52:12
14 The major trial that I helped initiate was 09:52:16
15 the coronary artery post-bypass intervention trial. 09:52:24

16 It involved five sites in the United States and 09:52:28
17 Canada in which the University of Minnesota and the 09:52:32
18 Minneapolis Heart Institute were co-sites on that 09:52:38
19 particular study. 09:52:40
20 Q. Was that completed at the time you finished your 09:52:44
21 fellowship? 09:52:46
22 A. No. 09:52:46
23 Q. Has it been completed in the data published? 09:52:48
24 A. It has been now. 09:52:50
25 Q. What is the article that discusses that project? 09:52:54

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1 A. The -- there was an article approximately six months 09:52:58
2 ago in the New England Journal, which being a 09:53:02
3 multinational trial, just the authors of the chief 09:53:08
4 investigators from each site and Dr. Hunninghake's 09:53:14
5 name is cited on that article of reports of that 09:53:16
6 study. 09:53:18
7 Q. Okay. Was that one -- an article that you 09:53:22
8 referenced in the information you provided on your 09:53:24
9 report? 09:53:24
10 A. No, sir. 09:53:26
11 Q. It had no particular relevance to the issues that 09:53:28
12 you are going to be talking about? 09:53:30
13 A. Not -- I was not listed as an author, and so if you 09:53:36
14 are not listed as an author, I don't put it down, 09:53:38
15 even -- I participated in the writing of the initial 09:53:42
16 portions and of the initial recruitment for that 09:53:44
17 study, but since I was not at the university for the 09:53:48
18 duration of the study, which was five years from the 09:53:54

19 initiation of recruitment, I was not an author of 09:54:00
20 the study. 09:54:00
21 Q. Okay. Is this other physician listed as the first 09:54:06
22 author? 09:54:06
23 A. The final -- he is listed as one of the principal 09:54:12
24 authors. I am not sure whether he is listed as 09:54:14
25 the -- 09:54:14

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1 Q. Do you know the title of the article, roughly? 09:54:16
2 A. It's the Report of Cholesterol -- no, it's called 09:54:24
3 the Post-Bypass Interventional Trial. 09:54:28
4 Q. Okay. What interventions were being evaluated? 09:54:38
5 A. The interventions that were primarily being looked 09:54:42
6 at in that study were aggressive lipid lowering -- 09:54:48
7 very aggressive LDL lowering to see if it could 09:54:52
8 affect the patency of saphenous venous bypass graphs 09:54:58
9 one to six years post-bypass. 09:55:02
10 Q. And these would be -- the intervention, then, would 09:55:08
11 be the administration of these cholesterol-lowering 09:55:12
12 drugs that have, in the last few years, been 09:55:16
13 available in the marketplace? 09:55:18
14 A. Yes, sir. 09:55:18
15 Q. Which particular medication was being evaluated? 09:55:26
16 A. Lovastatin, L-O-V-A-S-T-A-T-I-N, and some patients 09:55:36
17 also received Cholestyramine, 09:55:38
18 C-H-O-L-E-S-T-Y-R-A-M-I-N-E. 09:55:46
19 And there was also another arm of the 09:55:52
20 study that checked -- tested for low dose 09:55:54

21 anticoagulation Coumadin in very, very low doses to 09:56:02
22 see if this could affect the patency of the graphs. 09:56:06
23 Q. What was the -- I realize we don't have the article 09:56:10
24 here, it wasn't researched because it wasn't 09:56:14
25 listed. 09:56:16

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1 What was the general conclusion, 09:56:18
2 impression in that article? 09:56:22
3 A. You know, I think it would be out of our bounds 09:56:26
4 somewhat today to talk about that, and I don't -- we 09:56:30
5 would have to look at it, and since I was not a -- 09:56:34
6 you know, an author of that, I haven't looked at it 09:56:36
7 closely in a long period of time. 09:56:40
8 I guess the general consensus of a number 09:56:44
9 of secondary prevention trials is that a lower 09:56:50
10 cholesterol is better, and I think that that was in 09:56:52
11 line with the general consensus of what we call 09:57:00
12 secondary prevention trials. 09:57:00
13 Q. You do have an ongoing interest in secondary 09:57:06
14 prevention? 09:57:06
15 A. Yes, sir. 09:57:08
16 Q. As well as primary prevention? 09:57:10
17 A. Yes, sir. 09:57:10
18 Q. Do you, yourself -- are you now engaged in any 09:57:14
19 interventional trials or other research having to do 09:57:18
20 with these cholesterol-lowering drugs? 09:57:22
21 A. We are in the process of initiating a study now, a 09:57:28
22 year-long follow-up -- or a year-long comparison of 09:57:32
23 several cholesterol-lowering medications. 09:57:36

24 It's a -- looking at the newer drug named 09:57:42
25 Atorvastatin that's on the market. 09:57:44

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1 Q. Could you spell that. 09:57:44
2 A. A-T-O-R-V-A-S-T-A-V-I-N, that has recently become on 09:57:54
3 the market. Some of the other agents that have been 09:57:58
4 on the market. It's a multi-center 09:57:58
5 industry-supported study. 09:58:12
6 (A recess was taken.) 10:08:34
7 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
8 Q. Did you have a chance to take care of that page? 10:08:36
9 A. I did, thank you. 10:08:36
10 Q. Well, as I told you, you feel free -- patient care 10:08:40
11 is important so you feel free if you get a page and 10:08:44
12 need to respond, let me know. 10:08:46
13 A. Okay. Thank you. 10:08:46
14 Q. Now, we were talking about -- you said you were just 10:08:50
15 starting, what, some clinical trials or evaluations? 10:08:54
16 A. A clinical trial. It's 25 patients. 10:08:58
17 Q. Okay. Who is the manufacturer of this newer drug? 10:09:02
18 A. Parke Davis, P-A-R-K-E, Davis. 10:09:10
19 Q. Now, does this drug have the same -- work the same 10:09:16
20 way as these other cholesterol-lowering drugs that 10:09:20
21 have been on the market for the last three or four 10:09:22
22 years? 10:09:22
23 A. Yes, the family of drugs that is called the statin 10:09:26
24 family. 10:09:26
25 Q. Right. Is it part of that family? 10:09:28

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1 A. It is a statin drug. 10:09:30

2 Q. So is this, then, a test of that particular drug in 10:09:36

3 that family versus other medications, also, in that 10:09:38

4 family? 10:09:40

5 A. Yes. This is a study to look at the year-long 10:09:46

6 effects of this drug versus other of the drugs that 10:09:50

7 are on the market. 10:09:52

8 Q. And what is the patient population being studied? 10:09:56

9 A. Patients who have significant elevations of 10:10:02

10 cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, specifically, on 10:10:08

11 entry. 10:10:08

12 Q. And what is the criteria to be one of the -- you say 10:10:16

13 there are 25 people being studied? 10:10:16

14 A. Right. 10:10:18

15 Q. Is this a study that you are responsible for or in 10:10:20

16 charge of? 10:10:20

17 A. I am the local principal investigator. 10:10:24

18 Q. There are people being studied at other medical 10:10:26

19 centers, as well? 10:10:28

20 A. Yes, it's a multi-center -- probably across the 10:10:32

21 country greater than 100 centers are participating 10:10:34

22 in it. 10:10:34

23 Q. So there are maybe 25 in your shop, but there are 10:10:46

24 other patients in other places, right? 10:10:50

25 A. Right. 10:10:50

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1 Q. So how many patients total will be participating? 10:10:52
2 A. I am not exactly sure. 10:10:56
3 Q. What is the criteria for -- to be a patient to be 10:11:00
4 studied? 10:11:00
5 A. LDL cholesterols greater than 160 milligrams per 10:11:08
6 deciliter. 10:11:08
7 Q. Is there any other criteria? 10:11:14
8 A. They -- patients cannot have significant compounding 10:11:22
9 medical problems that would alter the ability to 10:11:32
10 judge the effect of the lipid lowering of the drug, 10:11:34
11 of the lowering effects of the drug. 10:11:36
12 Q. Okay. Would you give us an example or two of that. 10:11:40
13 A. A patient who was on steroids is excluded from the 10:11:46
14 trial. A patient who has not had a stable cardiac 10:12:00
15 condition that may require repeat hospitalizations. 10:12:04
16 A patient who has just had a heart attack is not a 10:12:08
17 candidate for the medication, for this trial. 10:12:10
18 Q. Okay. But they could have had a heart attack in the 10:12:14
19 past? 10:12:14
20 A. Yes, sir. 10:12:16
21 Q. So this is not -- these are persons that are -- fall 10:12:22
22 into the primary and secondary category? 10:12:24
23 A. Yes. 10:12:24
24 Q. Both groups being studied together? 10:12:26
25 A. Yes, sir. 10:12:26

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1 Q. Any other -- is there a criteria as to whether or 10:12:34

2 not they are smokers? 10:12:34

3 A. No, sir. 10:12:36

4 Q. Is there a medical center that is the principal 10:12:52

5 coordinator, for lack of a better word? 10:12:54

6 A. It is being run by a study company called Icon; 10:13:06

7 I-C-O-N, I believe. 10:13:06

8 Q. And where are they headquartered? 10:13:10

9 A. I believe New Jersey, but I would have to look. 10:13:14

10 Q. It's a company that -- 10:13:16

11 A. Runs the studies. 10:13:18

12 Q. Studies for drug companies, at the behest of drug 10:13:22

13 companies? 10:13:22

14 A. Yes, sir. 10:13:24

15 Q. Now, other than that study that is about to get 10:13:28

16 underway, clinical study, are you presently engaged 10:13:32

17 in any other kind of research efforts, yourself, and 10:13:34

18 particularly in respect to these 10:13:36

19 cholesterol-lowering drugs? 10:13:38

20 A. No, sir. 10:13:40

21 Q. Have you, since the time that you have completed 10:13:44

22 your fellowship in cardiology in the late '80s, been 10:13:48

23 engaged in any clinical studies or trials of these 10:13:52

24 cholesterol-lowering drugs? 10:13:54

25 A. The former director of the preventive program was 10:14:04

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1 involved in several trials, and when he left, I just 10:14:12

2 saw to the closing of most of those trials, so just 10:14:20

3 no -- I guess where I would be called the 10:14:26

4 investigator. 10:14:28

5 Q. What were the medications that were involved in 10:14:36
6 those clinical trials that you inherited upon 10:14:40
7 assuming this position? 10:14:40
8 A. Without going back and reviewing the particular 10:14:46
9 groups, I couldn't say exactly. 10:14:50
10 There were just a number of studies 10:14:54
11 looking at combinations of these type of drugs, but 10:15:00
12 potentially with other drugs, the effects of those, 10:15:02
13 and the effects of different dosing of the standard 10:15:06
14 drugs that are on the market today. 10:15:08
15 Q. Is that data published, to your knowledge, after the 10:15:14
16 studies were concluded? 10:15:16
17 A. Some of the data has been published. The -- in 10:15:22
18 the -- again, these were large, multi-center trials 10:15:26
19 which our institution was a participant in and not 10:15:32
20 the principal investigator. 10:15:32
21 Q. So if one wanted to access that data in the public 10:15:40
22 arena, where would one go? Where would one look for 10:15:46
23 it? 10:15:46
24 A. The -- it would -- I would have to find the 10:15:52
25 particular study and see if that data from those 10:15:58

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1 studies has been published. I can access that data 10:16:04
2 and furnish it to you if you so desire. 10:16:06
3 There have been hundreds of post-marketing 10:16:10
4 studies, many FDA-mandated, that have been 10:16:16
5 performed, and so which study has been published 10:16:22
6 where is difficult to ascertain. 10:16:22

7 Q. Are you listed on any of those published studies as 10:16:28
8 one of the investigators? 10:16:30
9 A. There is a study in press regarding our apheresis 10:16:40
10 unit that we have had three patients as part of a -- 10:16:44
11 these are patients with severe familial 10:16:48
12 hyperlipidemia who were given what is called 10:16:54
13 apheresis of their LDL cholesterol, which actually 10:16:58
14 takes LDL out of the bloodstream, that there is a -- 10:17:02
15 and these patients, of course, are very rare. 10:17:04
16 So in our large practice we only had three 10:17:08
17 who qualified who were with Dr. David Brown, who is 10:17:12
18 a nephrologist, who were part of the study. That 10:17:20
19 study is now in press and has been submitted. 10:17:24
20 Q. And who is going to publish that? 10:17:26
21 A. I am not exactly sure, to tell you the truth. 10:17:30
22 Q. Okay. Who will be listed as the first author or the 10:17:32
23 principal investigator? 10:17:34
24 A. I believe Roger Illingworth from Portland. 10:17:40
25 Q. Have you seen the article in the form to which it's 10:17:46

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1 going to be printed? 10:17:46
2 A. I saw an early rendition that I was asked to comment 10:17:52
3 on. We usually don't -- until an article is in 10:18:00
4 press, do not list that article. 10:18:02
5 Q. What was the general finding that's going to be 10:18:08
6 presented in that article? 10:18:12
7 A. The finding, again, is with -- is that this was a 10:18:16
8 study to say did LDL pheresis lower the cholesterol 10:18:24
9 and was it tolerated by patients. 10:18:28

10 Q. Is that why the nephrologist is involved? 10:18:30

11 A. LDL pheresis is a dialysis, if you would, of LDL 10:18:36

12 cholesterol, and that is not my area of expertise, 10:18:42

13 and so the actual mechanics of the pheresis 10:18:48

14 procedure were overseen by the nephrologist. We 10:18:56

15 specifically identified the patients who have had 10:18:58

16 extremely high serum cholesterols. 10:19:02

17 Q. This LDL, whether you take a look at the popular 10:19:04

18 press or you go to see your internist or family 10:19:06

19 doctor, that's the bad cholesterol they talk about? 10:19:10

20 A. Yes. 10:19:10

21 Q. What were the -- was this a beneficial procedure 10:19:14

22 according to this article? I mean, did it make a 10:19:16

23 difference in terms of their outcome? 10:19:18

24 A. It was not an outcomes article as far as looking at 10:19:20

25 the effects. It was an article to say did the 10:19:24

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1 procedure work and did human beings tolerate this 10:19:28

2 over the course of a year. 10:19:30

3 Q. Okay. Is there an ongoing study, then, to see if 10:19:36

4 this makes a difference in terms of their 10:19:38

5 cardiovascular condition over the years? 10:19:40

6 A. The patients are being followed in an open-ended way 10:19:46

7 at this time. Atherosclerosis studies oftentimes 10:19:52

8 take years to reach an end point, and that's why 10:19:54

9 many of those studies evolve over five to ten 10:19:58

10 years. 10:19:58

11 So there have been specific substudies 10:20:02

12 done in Japan of patients with this that are -- have 10:20:08
13 looked at this and are in progress now. 10:20:10
14 Q. What percent of the population in the 10:20:12
15 United States -- you said that you had three 10:20:16
16 patients that met the criteria in your particular 10:20:18
17 center here. 10:20:18
18 Roughly how significant is this family 10:20:22
19 condition in the United States? 10:20:24
20 A. One in 100,000. 10:20:40
21 Q. Any other studies, then, before we leave that topic, 10:20:42
22 that you can recall that related to cholesterol 10:20:46
23 lowering that was in the clinical trials when the 10:20:48
24 previous director had departed and you assumed the 10:20:52
25 position? 10:20:52

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1 A. No, sir. 10:20:56
2 Q. Now, I have talked to you about the study you are 10:21:02
3 starting and these that you got involved in both in 10:21:04
4 your fellowship, and I want to go back to that a 10:21:08
5 little bit. 10:21:08
6 But first let me ask you, have you made 10:21:10
7 any proposals to drug companies or others that might 10:21:14
8 provide funding to do any additional studies that 10:21:18
9 are under consideration? 10:21:18
10 A. In approximately 1992 or 3 I submitted a written 10:21:32
11 proposal to Merck Sharpe & Dohme to possibly look at 10:21:38
12 not only cholesterol lowering but to combine that 10:21:42
13 with antioxidant therapy in patients to see if it 10:21:48
14 could have an effect on restenosis post-angioplasty, 10:21:50

15 and they decided not to fund that study. 10:21:56
16 Q. Have you submitted that to anyone else? 10:22:02
17 A. No. 10:22:02
18 Q. What were you -- why were you interested in the role 10:22:06
19 of antioxidants? 10:22:08
20 A. There is a number of things that have come in the 10:22:16
21 popular press and some things that we base our 10:22:22
22 things on, things that we see clinically with 10:22:26
23 patients. 10:22:26
24 We do not do bench research and we -- our 10:22:34
25 font of researches comes from our patient 10:22:36

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1 interactions. 10:22:36
2 And the question arose, since -- whether 10:22:40
3 cholesterol lowering, itself, caused a change in 10:22:44
4 what we call restenosis or the scarring 10:22:46
5 post-angioplasty, which was the -- a clinical 10:22:52
6 dilemma in the field of angioplasty. 10:22:56
7 The question is, was there -- in patients 10:22:58
8 who will be given cholesterol lowering to try and -- 10:23:04
9 and Merck was interested in -- was actually having a 10:23:08
10 large national trial that we were not part of 10:23:10
11 looking at that area. 10:23:10
12 The question became not only cholesterol 10:23:16
13 lowering, but if you combine something else with 10:23:18
14 cholesterol lowering to decrease the inflammation at 10:23:22
15 the site of -- the site, could it have an effect on 10:23:26
16 that. 10:23:26

17 Q. Have others done research on a project that would be 10:23:40
 18 similar to the proposal that you made to Merck? 10:23:44
 19 A. Since that time? 10:23:44
 20 Q. Since that time. 10:23:46
 21 A. There have been, just watching the literature, some 10:23:48
 22 similar type things, looking mostly in animal 10:23:54
 23 models. 10:23:54
 24 Q. So that's still, you think, perhaps a viable project 10:24:04
 25 down the road? 10:24:04

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1 A. I don't know. I mean, it was something that we were 10:24:06
 2 interested then and we have kind of moved our 10:24:10
 3 interests onward since then. 10:24:12
 4 Q. Okay. What have your interests moved on to, or 10:24:16
 5 onward from? 10:24:16
 6 A. Well, our patient volume, you know, continues to 10:24:22
 7 grow and we focus on things that are every day, 10:24:30
 8 working with clinical treatment of patients and how 10:24:32
 9 to do it as efficiently as possible. 10:24:34
 10 Q. So what, then, has -- and, of course, you have spent 10:24:38
 11 more time now with this patient and it's built up, 10:24:46
 12 as you say. 10:24:46
 13 What are your current focuses in terms of 10:24:50
 14 clinical research? 10:24:52
 15 A. Our biggest focus at this time -- and, again, we 10:24:58
 16 spend -- we are primarily clinicians, we are not 10:25:02
 17 researchers -- is the appropriateness of care, which 10:25:10
 18 led us into working with primary care physicians 10:25:16
 19 closely and so that patients are treated most 10:25:22

20 appropriately and efficiently for whatever disease 10:25:26
21 state they present with. 10:25:28
22 Q. Is this a group focus or your particular focus, or 10:25:36
23 both? 10:25:36
24 A. Both. 10:25:36
25 Q. Okay. And do you have, then, research proposals or 10:25:44

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1 research projects underway that would relate to 10:25:46
2 improving the appropriateness of care in working 10:25:48
3 with primary care physicians? You talked about the 10:25:52
4 database on chest pain. 10:25:54
5 A. That is primarily our focus through that database 10:25:58
6 and up. 10:25:58
7 Q. And as you said, it's your hope that that can be 10:26:02
8 expanded or -- beyond that one clinical situation? 10:26:04
9 A. Yes, sir. 10:26:06
10 Q. Now, primary care physicians, are we talking about 10:26:10
11 internists and family physicians, principally? 10:26:14
12 A. Yes, sir. 10:26:14
13 Q. Educate me a little bit more on what you mean by 10:26:22
14 "appropriateness of care" and "primary care 10:26:24
15 physicians." 10:26:24
16 Are you trying to augment their ability to 10:26:26
17 treat cardiac and cardiovascular complaints or -- 10:26:30
18 A. Yes, sir. 10:26:32
19 Q. -- is it something else? 10:26:32
20 A. What the ideal situation would be, that the patient 10:26:38
21 who can be best treated in a primary care setting is 10:26:44

22 treated there and the patient who is best treated in 10:26:48
23 the special setting is treated there. 10:26:50
24 Q. And so to try to explore this a little bit further, 10:27:00
25 then there has to be some way of classifying 10:27:02

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1 patients as to whether they can best be treated in 10:27:06
2 the primary care setting or best be treated by the 10:27:10
3 specialist, right? 10:27:12
4 A. I guess if you look at populations, that could be 10:27:18
5 said to be true. 10:27:18
6 Q. I am just trying to get a handle on how you are 10:27:22
7 going to put together this appropriateness of care 10:27:24
8 and what you are actually doing. 10:27:26
9 A. It's a very difficult and complex -- we could spend 10:27:32
10 the entire 12 hours explaining it, if you would like 10:27:34
11 me to, but it's a -- you know, books and a lot of 10:27:40
12 things have been written on it. 10:27:42
13 It's our attempt in our practice, you 10:27:46
14 know, in our own small way within the clinical 10:27:50
15 practice to facilitate that and, again, it's in a 10:27:56
16 somewhat embryonic stage. 10:27:56
17 Q. This is a new thing on the medical scene now or a 10:28:00
18 new concept or a revitalized concept? 10:28:04
19 A. It's -- it's always been there but it's become more 10:28:12
20 important. 10:28:12
21 Q. Does it have anything to do, its importance, with 10:28:16
22 the changes in the managed care situation and the 10:28:20
23 different incentives that are now afforded to 10:28:24
24 physicians and the way they practiced a few years 10:28:28

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1 A. Yeah, I think that there are things that could be 10:28:30
2 said as far as incentives go, but we have tried to 10:28:34
3 focus instead of any financial models at all, as far 10:28:38
4 as what a best practice of medicine is. 10:28:40

5 Q. We don't want to take 12 hours of your time to have 10:28:48
6 you talk about this because as I recall, that's not 10:28:50
7 directly referenced in your expert report, which we 10:28:54
8 are going to identify and talk about in a few 10:28:56
9 moments. 10:28:56

10 But is there a textbook or -- you said 10:28:58
11 there were textbooks published. Is there something 10:29:00
12 that you could give us as a reference so that we 10:29:04
13 could take a look at that on our own time that would 10:29:08
14 enable us to be at least somewhat educated in that 10:29:10
15 area? 10:29:12

16 A. There is not like one textbook on this because it is 10:29:20
17 a developing field, and by the time the textbooks 10:29:22
18 seem to get printed, they are out of date. 10:29:24

19 I think the book chapter that we talked 10:29:28
20 about that is referenced in that whole book, the -- 10:29:34
21 in the -- that we afforded to you and the rest of 10:29:38
22 that book would talk a lot about a number of the 10:29:42
23 issues that are represented there. 10:29:44

24 Q. Okay. What book? That book was one of your 10:29:48
25 references to your report? 10:29:50

1 A. Yeah. And we submitted that -- 10:29:54

2 Q. Braunwald's book? 10:29:56

3 A. No. Let's see. I know that we -- the book chapter 10:30:08

4 that's in my -- I don't see it here in my CV. I 10:30:14

5 apologize. 10:30:16

6 Q. Yeah, we got -- just so you don't stumble around 10:30:18

7 there looking for it, we did get a supplemental 10:30:22

8 letter dated July -- fax, rather, dated July 28, 10:30:26

9 1997, that gave us some additional information that 10:30:30

10 hadn't been furnished earlier, and there is a 10:30:32

11 chapter -- 10:30:32

12 A. Yeah, that book, I think, is probably one of the 10:30:34

13 more recent publications that covers a number of 10:30:36

14 issues as far as appropriateness and outcomes. 10:30:40

15 Q. Okay. Let me just -- I am going to put it in front 10:30:44

16 of you here and just simply ask you if the book that 10:30:48

17 you are referring to is published -- or the author 10:30:50

18 is Dixon M. -- 10:30:52

19 A. That's the book chapter. 10:30:54

20 Q. The book chapter, and it's from a book published by 10:30:56

21 the American Hospital Association, 1996, and the 10:31:00

22 chapter is on medical effectiveness and outcomes 10:31:02

23 management? 10:31:02

24 A. Right. I think that would be a good general -- and 10:31:06

25 the rest of the book, a good general source to 10:31:10

1 educate yourself on that. 10:31:12

2 Q. Now, how, then, do your efforts of preventive 10:31:18

3 cardiology relate to this new corporate focus on 10:31:22

4 appropriateness of care? 10:31:22

5 A. I don't think it's a corporate focus on 10:31:26

6 appropriateness of care. I think it's a medical 10:31:28

7 focus on appropriateness of care. 10:31:30

8 Q. Focus of your group is what I meant by "corporate 10:31:32

9 focus." I am sorry. A group focus on 10:31:36

10 appropriateness of care. 10:31:38

11 A. My feeling is that preventive cardiology -- that 10:31:42

12 everybody who practices medicine is a preventive 10:31:46

13 cardiologist, and that whether a patient presents to 10:31:50

14 a primary care physician or a cardiologist, the 10:31:54

15 issues of prevention need to be raised, and with 10:31:58

16 that, we would like to share what we do with the 10:32:08

17 primary care physicians. 10:32:12

18 At the same time we have a lot to learn 10:32:14

19 from what they do in their everyday practice, and so 10:32:18

20 there is a sharing of knowledge for the betterment 10:32:20

21 of medical care. 10:32:20

22 Q. Okay. And so, again, we don't want to take too much 10:32:28

23 of the time on this, but I need to understand what 10:32:30

24 you are spending your time on. 10:32:32

25 What, then, are you doing in your 10:32:34

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1 day-to-day or month-to-month work to get this 10:32:40

2 process further developed? 10:32:46

3 I mean, are you, for instance, making 10:32:48
4 talks to primary care physicians where you 10:32:52
5 communicate what you have learned in your practice 10:32:54
6 and ask them what they have learned in theirs, or do 10:32:56
7 you have a computerized system underway, or are you 10:32:58
8 writing articles or giving TV shows or -- 10:33:02
9 A. All of the above. However, we can educate a primary 10:33:10
10 care physician, and most importantly, the patients, 10:33:14
11 about their responsibilities for health care. Then 10:33:20
12 we will try and access that. 10:33:24
13 This is one that we have talked about the 10:33:26
14 appropriateness criteria. It's one facet of many 10:33:32
15 facets that we looked -- again, focusing on best 10:33:36
16 practice model. 10:33:38
17 I do give talks to primary care 10:33:42
18 physicians. I do give talks to, you know, general 10:33:46
19 groups. We -- you know, I will field two to three 10:33:52
20 phone calls a day, usually, with preventive 10:33:56
21 cardiology questions, whatever it takes to help. 10:34:00
22 Personally and at the Minneapolis Heart 10:34:04
23 Institute we have been successful in our 10:34:06
24 cardiovascular practice because we have been a 10:34:10
25 supporter of both primary care physicians' and 10:34:16

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1 patients' angioplasty. 10:34:18
2 Q. Now, you said that in -- the most information or the 10:34:54
3 research that you have been involved in are clinical 10:34:56
4 trials with respect to the actual patients that you 10:35:00
5 have seen there here in Minneapolis. 10:35:02

6 Is any of them based on the other places 10:35:04
7 where these cardiologists go? We talked about this 10:35:06
8 one hospital 100 miles away. 10:35:10
9 A. Uh-huh. 10:35:12
10 Q. But is most of the data that you accumulate on 10:35:12
11 patients generated from the patients that are seen 10:35:16
12 here at Minneapolis? 10:35:16
13 A. Yes, sir. 10:35:18
14 Q. Now, how much of your professional time is 10:35:30
15 devoted -- and you have listed a number of things, 10:35:34
16 activities -- to preventive cardiology in one form 10:35:38
17 or fashion? 10:35:38
18 A. Approximately 15 percent. 10:35:40
19 Q. Now, do you see patients, yourself, at any of these 10:35:58
20 centers other than at Minneapolis? 10:36:00
21 A. Yes, sir, we go to 28 sites in Minnesota and Western 10:36:04
22 Wisconsin, our heart group does. 10:36:06
23 Q. And so do you, personally, do -- 10:36:08
24 A. I, personally, do outreach in probably half a dozen. 10:36:14
25 Q. Now, are these different places that you go, are 10:36:22

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1 they like cardiology centers? Do they see patients 10:36:26
2 on referral, then, from family physicians and 10:36:28
3 primary care physicians? 10:36:30
4 A. These are primary care centers that we go to, and 10:36:32
5 anywhere from once a week to once a month to see 10:36:36
6 consultative cardiology patients in consultation. 10:36:42
7 Q. Describe for me what that means. These are patients 10:36:44

8 that are referred by their family doctor? 10:36:46

9 A. By their primary care physicians for cardiology 10:36:54

10 consultation. 10:36:56

11 Q. So rather than have the patient come to Minneapolis, 10:36:58

12 you go out to wherever they happen to be on a 10:37:00

13 monthly basis? 10:37:00

14 A. Yes, sir. 10:37:02

15 Q. And do you accumulate, then, data in terms of their 10:37:08

16 clinical course which becomes part of your data bank 10:37:12

17 in Minneapolis? 10:37:12

18 A. At the present time only if they come to Minneapolis 10:37:20

19 or -- or to the Heart Institute or 10:37:24

20 Abbott Northwestern. 10:37:26

21 The New Ulm patients in this alpha test, 10:37:32

22 which, again, I think comprises a very small part of 10:37:36

23 our practice, are entered into the database at the 10:37:40

24 site in New Ulm. 10:37:40

25 Q. Okay. I think you have said that education of 10:37:48

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1 patients and primary care physicians is a big effort 10:37:54

2 on behalf of your group, or by your group? 10:38:00

3 A. Yes, sir. 10:38:00

4 Q. Right. Now, we have talked about the presentations 10:38:06

5 that you regularly make to civic groups and 10:38:08

6 sponsored by the foundation. 10:38:12

7 A. Arranged by the foundation. 10:38:14

8 Q. Arranged by the foundation. Okay. And the 10:38:18

9 foundation is a -- 10:38:20

10 A. A 501(c)(3) not for profit foundation. 10:38:24

11	Q.	Okay. But you are actually a member of the	10:38:30
12		foundation?	10:38:30
13	A.	Yes.	10:38:32
14	Q.	Okay. And then you actually speak at programs	10:38:36
15		sponsored by that foundation?	10:38:38
16	A.	Arranged by.	10:38:38
17	Q.	Arranged by the foundation.	10:38:40
18		And the people that you speak to on	10:38:44
19		programs arranged by the foundation are principally	10:38:48
20		physicians or laypersons?	10:38:50
21	A.	Primarily, the foundation, I would say 80 percent of	10:38:56
22		the foundation events are to the lay and 20 percent	10:39:02
23		are to physicians.	10:39:04
24	Q.	Okay. And the lay people where you would speak, you	10:39:14
25		mentioned organizations, social and professional	10:39:16

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1		clubs like the Kiwanis Club. What are the other	10:39:22
2		examples?	10:39:22
3	A.	Oh, certain employment groups, such as Honeywell, is	10:39:26
4		a health-focus type program that we usually present	10:39:38
5		at once a year and those types of things.	10:39:42
6	Q.	Okay. Any other employers that you talk with or at	10:39:50
7		programs arranged by the foundation?	10:39:52
8	A.	You know, the kind of employers around town,	10:39:58
9		historically, Seagate, Control Data, you know, we	10:40:08
10		have a number of -- we have a very good relationship	10:40:12
11		with a number of corporate Minneapolis-St. Paul	10:40:14
12		corporations.	10:40:16

13 Q. And these -- when you -- these are presentations 10:40:20
14 that you make, personally? 10:40:20
15 A. Yes. 10:40:22
16 Q. Is it generally made, each presentation, by one 10:40:24
17 cardiologist? 10:40:26
18 A. Yes, and other cardiologists do the same thing I do. 10:40:30
19 Q. That was my next question. You have other 10:40:32
20 cardiologists in your groups that also make these 10:40:34
21 presentations? 10:40:36
22 A. Yes, sir. 10:40:36
23 Q. Is there a difference between the program that you 10:40:40
24 might present to the lay people or the employers 10:40:42
25 versus the program that you would present to the 10:40:46

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1 physicians? 10:40:46
2 A. Yes, sir. 10:40:48
3 Q. And how are they different? 10:40:52
4 A. The physicians' presentations would tend to focus 10:41:02
5 more on issues that would be more technical that 10:41:12
6 physicians would understand. 10:41:14
7 Q. Now, in these presentations you are dealing with 10:41:24
8 preventive cardiology, right? 10:41:26
9 A. Predominantly. 10:41:26
10 Q. Both primary and secondary prevention? 10:41:30
11 A. Yes, sir. 10:41:30
12 Q. Okay. And then for the lay people, the people that 10:41:38
13 don't have any particular medical training or 10:41:40
14 education, you would have a less technical program? 10:41:42
15 A. Yes, sir. 10:41:44

16 Q. Okay. You would have slides and overheads and 10:41:48
17 videos and -- 10:41:52
18 A. Yes. 10:41:52
19 Q. -- that type of thing? 10:41:54
20 A. Yes. 10:41:54
21 Q. Okay. Tell me, when is the most recent time that 10:41:58
22 you have made a presentation to the Kiwanis Club or 10:42:00
23 other group of lay people? 10:42:02
24 A. Oh, I think it was in May. 10:42:08
25 Q. May of this year? 10:42:10

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1 A. Yes. 10:42:12
2 Q. And which group was that? 10:42:14
3 A. The most recent was the presentation to a Honeywell 10:42:18
4 group of employees. 10:42:20
5 Q. These would be people that would have no particular 10:42:22
6 medical knowledge? Honeywell is a computer company? 10:42:26
7 A. Right. 10:42:26
8 Q. And what kind of -- what topics do you cover and -- 10:42:30
9 A. Usually I will talk about general issues of the 10:42:42
10 development of coronary artery disease, educating 10:42:48
11 people as to the causative effects of coronary 10:42:50
12 artery disease and educating them to if they have 10:42:54
13 some of those causative effects, that -- what they 10:43:00
14 can do to stay out of our coronary care unit. 10:43:06
15 Q. Okay. And you have, then, overheads, and so forth, 10:43:20
16 that talk about different facets of this? 10:43:24
17 A. Yes. 10:43:24

18 Q. Okay. And is this a -- I don't want to use the word 10:43:28
19 package, but a presentation that you have already 10:43:30
20 assembled and that you can give to one group and six 10:43:34
21 months later you can update it if that's necessary 10:43:36
22 and then give it to another group? 10:43:38
23 A. I usually vary the presentations depending on the 10:43:42
24 group and what their particular requests or needs 10:43:42
25 are. 10:43:44

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1 Q. And the one we are talking about here is kind of the 10:43:46
2 one that you would start with and you might make a 10:43:50
3 modification depending upon the particular request 10:43:52
4 or group? 10:43:52
5 A. Uh-huh. 10:43:54
6 Q. But this would be -- what we are talking about is a 10:43:58
7 typical presentation you might make to a group of 10:44:00
8 lay people that work at Honeywell or somewhere? 10:44:02
9 A. Yes. 10:44:02
10 Q. Now, in that presentation do you talk about the 10:44:08
11 elevated cholesterol risk of cardiovascular disease? 10:44:18
12 A. Yes. 10:44:22
13 Q. Did you become interested in that subject during the 10:44:24
14 time that you were participating in your fellowship? 10:44:28
15 A. I became interested in preventive cardiology during 10:44:36
16 my, I guess, college into medical school and focused 10:44:44
17 in the residency program at Hennepin County Medical 10:44:46
18 Center because at the time cardiology was focused on 10:44:52
19 treating people after they had had a heart attack. 10:44:54
20 And after -- and I saw an opportunity in 10:45:02

21 the areas of smoking and high cholesterol, 10:45:06
22 predominantly, of having an impact as far as, number 10:45:12
23 1, preventing the patients from coming to the 10:45:14
24 coronary care unit; number 2, keeping them from 10:45:20
25 coming back again. 10:45:22

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1 Q. So you became interested in this in college, this 10:45:26
2 preventive cardiology, or what became preventive 10:45:28
3 cardiology? 10:45:28
4 A. Well, just -- it seemed -- looking at -- beginning 10:45:32
5 to looking at things, there is the focus on seeing a 10:45:40
6 certain amount of patients in a day and then there 10:45:42
7 is the focus on changing the kinds of patients that 10:45:48
8 you see over a period of time, and -- 10:45:52
9 Q. Let me just make sure you answer my question. 10:45:54
10 Did you say that you became interested in 10:45:56
11 what became your focus on preventive cardiology when 10:46:00
12 you were a college student and then later in your 10:46:02
13 residency? 10:46:02
14 A. Preventive medicine. 10:46:04
15 Q. Preventive medicine. Okay. 10:46:06
16 A. And then as I began my residency and looked at the 10:46:10
17 various subspecialties of internal medicine, it 10:46:14
18 seemed that the opportunity of prevention in this 10:46:18
19 area was great. 10:46:20
20 Q. Okay. Were you ever a smoker when you were in 10:46:22
21 college? 10:46:24
22 A. No, sir. 10:46:24

23 Q. Ever been a smoker? 10:46:24
24 A. No, sir. 10:46:26
25 Q. Ever had any member of your family had some kind of 10:46:28

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1 cardiovascular event that you related in your own 10:46:32
2 mind to them being a smoker? 10:46:34
3 A. My mother had an angioplasty at age 78 and she was a 10:46:40
4 smoker, and suffered many of the consequences of 10:46:46
5 that. 10:46:46
6 Q. Did she successfully have that procedure? 10:46:50
7 A. Yes, sir. 10:46:50
8 Q. Is she still alive today? 10:46:54
9 A. No, sir. 10:46:54
10 Q. Okay. How about any other member of your family 10:46:58
11 have any kind of cardiovascular event that you would 10:47:02
12 associate with smoking? 10:47:04
13 A. My grandfather died in 1963 of either a sudden 10:47:14
14 cardiac event or a stroke, and he was also a smoker, 10:47:16
15 my mother's father. 10:47:18
16 Q. How old was he? 10:47:18
17 A. Sixty-one. 10:47:20
18 Q. Now, did going out to the facility in Colorado have 10:47:28
19 anything to do with your interest in preventive 10:47:32
20 medicine? 10:47:32
21 A. No, sir. 10:47:32
22 Q. What was the reason for that choice? 10:47:34
23 A. At the time when I started my internship, the -- 10:47:42
24 there was some question whether I was going to be 10:47:46
25 a -- I had some interest, also, in some surgical 10:47:50

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1 subspecialty areas. 10:47:50

2 And when they asked for a commitment early 10:47:54

3 in the year for a second year, I did not want to 10:47:58

4 commit to a second year of internal medicine and 10:48:02

5 then back out. 10:48:04

6 So rather than, you know, say something 10:48:06

7 and then leave a space in the program if I decided 10:48:12

8 to change early in the year, I decided that I would 10:48:16

9 opt out for a year and then go from there. 10:48:22

10 Q. So when you were out in Colorado you practiced -- 10:48:28

11 A. General medicine. 10:48:28

12 Q. -- general medicine? Now, then, in respect to this 10:48:40

13 presentation for lay people we were talking about, 10:48:44

14 would you describe for me what advice or information 10:48:52

15 you provide in respect to various risk factors for 10:48:56

16 cardiovascular disease. 10:48:58

17 A. As far as causative agents for coronary artery 10:49:08

18 disease, I try and outline the things that people 10:49:16

19 can do to change, you know, their risk factor 10:49:28

20 profile, and -- 10:49:30

21 Q. Let me just -- I don't want to interrupt, but I will 10:49:32

22 come right back to it. Risk factor profile, that 10:49:34

23 would be each unique individuals and what risk 10:49:38

24 factors they might have for cardiovascular disease? 10:49:40

25 A. I think the causative agents add up to a summation 10:49:44

1 of a certain amount of risk, and that individual 10:49:50
2 causative agents, then, add up to a certain amount 10:49:52
3 of risk that an individual, you know, could have. 10:49:58
4 And we look at population data and then 10:50:06
5 interventional trials looking at that population 10:50:08
6 data. The strongest message, you know, that I give 10:50:12
7 people is if you smoke, quit. And that's an 10:50:18
8 absolute. 10:50:20
9 The second message is that people have to 10:50:24
10 look at the amount of cholesterol that they have in 10:50:28
11 their system. Everybody needs cholesterol in their 10:50:30
12 system. Every cell wall in the body has cholesterol 10:50:36
13 in it. It's just a question of balance of 10:50:40
14 cholesterol. Looking at people who have diabetes 10:50:46
15 mellitus, looking at people who have high blood 10:50:48
16 pressure, those are the four major risk factors. 10:50:58
17 And the ones that we can also impact on, somebody's 10:51:02
18 age, partly their genetics. 10:51:08
19 As a clinician and coming from a clinical 10:51:10
20 background and treating patients, we, you know, 10:51:18
21 can't change our ages, unfortunately, but -- so 10:51:24
22 those types of things. We focus on the things that 10:51:28
23 we can change and very aggressively try and pursue 10:51:32
24 those. 10:51:32
25 Q. Okay. Do you -- do you, during these outreach 10:51:46

1 presentations for lay people, ask them to complete 10:51:52

2 some type of survey on their health status and use 10:51:56
3 that -- samples of that, for instance, as something 10:51:58
4 you talk about? 10:51:58
5 A. At the biannual courses or programs that the 10:52:10
6 foundation sets up that I routinely speak at, there 10:52:16
7 is a program standard package, computerized program, 10:52:24
8 that people are -- go through that assesses their 10:52:28
9 cardiac risk. 10:52:30
10 Q. Okay. Who has developed this computer program? 10:52:36
11 A. I don't know what company. 10:52:40
12 Q. Your group has not done it? 10:52:42
13 A. No, it's a third-party computer program. 10:52:56
14 Q. Tell me again a little bit more -- not again, but a 10:52:58
15 little bit more about the biannual meetings. I made 10:53:02
16 a note of them. Who attends and where are they? 10:53:04
17 A. Usually from 1 to 300 lay people that the Heart 10:53:10
18 Institute Foundation. They will be in a -- anywhere 10:53:14
19 from a church to a hotel auditorium, in different 10:53:24
20 parts of the Twin Cities area. 10:53:26
21 Q. Okay. These are -- you did tell us about this, and 10:53:30
22 people come and there is a computer program that 10:53:32
23 they can evaluate themselves, more or less; is that 10:53:36
24 right?
25 A. They fill out a form at the first visit. They have 10:53:44

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1 their blood taken. They furnish a height and a 10:53:46
2 weight and smoking history, et cetera, and the 10:53:58
3 computer program, then, list gives them a certain 10:54:00

4 point score about their cardiac risk. 10:54:06

5 Q. I am just trying to understand how this works. 10:54:10

6 I have seen, you know, physicians put on 10:54:14

7 periodic programs in their specialties where they 10:54:18

8 have people come in for some kind of evaluation in 10:54:20

9 different kinds of specialty, not just cardiology. 10:54:22

10 Is this the kind of thing or are these 10:54:24

11 patients that you already have a relationship with 10:54:26

12 because they have been to the Heart Institute? 10:54:28

13 A. These are all-comers. Most of these patients -- 10:54:36

14 most of these people are not our patients and will 10:54:40

15 never be our patients. We do this as a community 10:54:42

16 service. 10:54:44

17 Q. So is this something that is arranged by the 10:54:46

18 Abbott Northwestern Hospital? 10:54:48

19 A. This is arranged by the Minneapolis Heart Institute 10:54:52

20 Foundation. 10:54:52

21 Q. Okay. And so this is made -- the availability of 10:54:56

22 this service is made public in newspapers and public 10:55:00

23 media? 10:55:00

24 A. I am not exactly certain all of the avenues that 10:55:06

25 they advertise it, but there is certain promotional 10:55:10

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1 things to advertise it. 10:55:12

2 Q. And there is no criteria defining who shows up other 10:55:16

3 than who is interested and who will come to the 10:55:18

4 meeting? 10:55:18

5 A. Yes, sir. 10:55:20

6 Q. So as you say, it's all-comers? 10:55:22

7 A. Anybody. 10:55:24
8 Q. Okay. So tell me about what they fill out. It's a 10:55:28
9 form, you say? 10:55:30
10 A. They fill out a computerized form asking them about 10:55:32
11 their various potential causative factors of 10:55:38
12 coronary artery disease. 10:55:40
13 Q. And tell me, you said it asked for a number of 10:55:48
14 different items of information. 10:55:50
15 A. Yes, sir. 10:55:50
16 Q. I assume there is some logical ones. Age? 10:55:54
17 A. I -- you know, I can't detail it because I haven't 10:56:00
18 looked at it in quite some time, but the standard, 10:56:04
19 you know, major risk factors as far as smoking, 10:56:10
20 hypertension, cholesterol status, age, history of 10:56:18
21 previous or known myocardial events. 10:56:22
22 Q. Weight? 10:56:22
23 A. And I am not sure about weight on this particular 10:56:28
24 form. 10:56:28
25 Q. I thought you said height and weight was on it 10:56:32

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1 before. 10:56:32
2 A. I thought it did, but -- and I think I did, but I am 10:56:34
3 not sure. As I think about it again, this is the 10:56:38
4 risk of looking at something that we don't have 10:56:42
5 here, and -- but it's a -- it's based on data from, 10:56:50
6 I think, the Framingham trial. 10:56:54
7 Q. Okay. And so they complete this form prior to the 10:56:58
8 meeting or when they show up at the meeting? 10:57:00

9 A. There are four or five sessions usually, and the 10:57:04
10 patients come -- or the -- not patients, the 10:57:08
11 populous comes the first time there is a filling out 10:57:16
12 the form, drawing of the blood, and then in the 10:57:22
13 subsequent weeks they get further information, and 10:57:24
14 as the data is then processed, their forms, they are 10:57:28
15 fed back those in maybe the third or fourth week. 10:57:30
16 Q. Oh, so this is more than just showing up for one 10:57:34
17 meeting? 10:57:34
18 A. This is a series of four meetings. 10:57:36
19 Q. Okay. And are three of the meetings, then, devoted 10:57:42
20 to data collection? 10:57:44
21 A. No, just the first one. The others are educational 10:57:46
22 meetings. 10:57:46
23 Q. Okay. All right. So they come in, they have -- 10:57:50
24 they fill out what, in effect, is a history, 10:57:56
25 computerized partial history, computerized format, 10:58:00

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1 right? And this data is accumulated. 10:58:06
2 Do they have their blood drawn at that 10:58:06
3 initial meeting? 10:58:06
4 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 10:58:08
5 Q. And the technicians draw this blood, and the purpose 10:58:10
6 is to evaluate it for -- 10:58:12
7 A. Blood cholesterol. 10:58:14
8 Q. Because many people don't necessarily know their 10:58:18
9 blood cholesterol, right? 10:58:20
10 A. That's right. 10:58:22
11 Q. Okay. Are there any other procedures at that time 10:58:28

12 other than drawing blood? Do they test urine or 10:58:32
13 anything like that? 10:58:34
14 A. No, sir. 10:58:36
15 Q. Okay. And then this is done and then there is 10:58:38
16 another meeting? 10:58:38
17 A. There is -- 10:58:40
18 Q. Several? 10:58:42
19 A. -- three or four additional -- three -- 10:58:44
20 Q. Have you spoke at these meetings? I don't want to 10:58:46
21 ask you about something you don't know. 10:58:48
22 A. I just speak at one of them. 10:58:48
23 Q. You speak at the final meeting? 10:58:50
24 A. I -- 10:58:52
25 Q. The accumulation of all of it, you are at the end of 10:58:56

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1 it? 10:58:56
2 A. It's not always the final meeting. I mean, I may 10:59:00
3 speak -- -- I don't speak at the first one because 10:59:02
4 the data is back by the time I speak. 10:59:04
5 Q. Okay. So by the time you speak, you are able to 10:59:08
6 review the data on whoever showed up, the 2 or 300 10:59:12
7 people that showed up for the meeting? 10:59:12
8 A. I review causative factors with them. They have the 10:59:18
9 data at that time. We do not -- this is not any 10:59:22
10 medical or individualized medical assessment of the 10:59:26
11 patients. 10:59:26
12 Q. Okay. So you don't -- although this data is 10:59:32
13 accumulated, you don't focus on a particular patient 10:59:34

14 and say, well, you have got this cholesterol, you 10:59:36
15 have got diabetes, you smoke, you ought to be 10:59:38
16 thinking about changing these things, you talk to 10:59:42
17 the group? 10:59:42
18 A. 1 to 300 people. 10:59:44
19 Q. Okay. Now, who on these other occasions speaks? 10:59:50
20 Are they cardiologists or preventive care physicians 10:59:54
21 or -- 10:59:54
22 A. Some will speak on stop smoking, others will speak 10:59:58
23 on exercise, and different potential causative 11:00:08
24 agents of coronary artery disease. 11:00:12
25 Q. Okay. Let's see if we can't pin down people who 11:00:16

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1 speak. There would be people who would speak on the 11:00:18
2 value of exercise in respect to the diminishment of 11:00:22
3 your risk for cardiovascular disease? 11:00:24
4 A. There would be people -- I don't attend those 11:00:30
5 sessions so I can't really speak to what they speak 11:00:32
6 of. There are exercise physiologists who speak, 11:00:38
7 there are nutritionists who speak. 11:00:40
8 Q. Now, go ahead. 11:00:46
9 A. And there may be a physician who talks about, you 11:00:52
10 know, the process of what happens with -- explains a 11:00:58
11 little bit about what actually happens with the 11:01:00
12 development of coronary artery disease and the 11:01:04
13 various implications of that. 11:01:08
14 Q. Is that someone for your particular group? 11:01:08
15 A. It would probably be that, yes. 11:01:10
16 Q. Okay. How long do each one of these meetings go? 11:01:16

17 A. Approximately 45 minutes. 11:01:18
18 Q. All right. So if I made my notes accurately, you or 11:01:24
19 another cardiologist speaks, at some point a 11:01:30
20 nutritionist, someone talks on stop smoking, there 11:01:34
21 is an exercise physiologist and at least a physician 11:01:36
22 who talks about the development of cardiovascular 11:01:40
23 disease? 11:01:42
24 A. That would be, I think -- with two programs running 11:01:46
25 a year for the past five years, the content can 11:01:50

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1 obviously vary, but that would be a typical 11:01:54
2 scenario. 11:01:56
3 Q. Okay. Now, have you been in charge of putting 11:01:58
4 together the program or -- 11:02:00
5 A. No, sir. 11:02:00
6 Q. Is there a person within your group that does that? 11:02:04
7 A. There is a head of the education department at the 11:02:08
8 Heart Institute Foundation. 11:02:12
9 Q. Okay. And who was that? 11:02:14
10 A. His name is George Kroeninger, K-R-O-E-N-I-N-G-E-R, 11:02:22
11 I believe. 11:02:22
12 Q. Do you more frequently than other cardiologists in 11:02:32
13 your group speak at these biannual meetings? 11:02:34
14 A. Being that I am director of preventive cardiology, I 11:02:38
15 am the -- I tend to speak more often on that 11:02:46
16 subject. 11:02:46
17 Dr. Welge, who is associate director of 11:02:48
18 preventive cardiology, usually also shares some of 11:02:54

19 the speaking responsibilities. 11:02:56

20 Q. Okay. Would you give us his full name or her full 11:02:58

21 name. 11:02:58

22 A. Dr. Barry, B-A-R-R-Y, Welge, W-E-L-G-E. 11:03:04

23 Q. He is also a cardiologist within your organization? 11:03:06

24 A. He is an internist with training in cardiology who 11:03:12

25 specializes or focuses on prevention. 11:03:16

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1 Q. So he is not board certified in the subspecialty of 11:03:20

2 cardiology? 11:03:20

3 A. No. 11:03:20

4 Q. Okay. So let's -- you are there. These 2 or 300 11:03:30

5 people are presumably mostly lay people? 11:03:32

6 A. Yes, sir. 11:03:32

7 Q. Although you don't, I take it, know exactly whether 11:03:38

8 or not they have had medical training, but I assume 11:03:38

9 most of the people that come have not; would that be 11:03:42

10 a fair assumption? 11:03:44

11 A. I can't really say, but -- 11:03:46

12 Q. Do you give them -- present to them pretty much the 11:03:48

13 same presentation information you would to a 11:03:50

14 corporate group, like at Honeywell or Control Data? 11:03:54

15 A. The presentations that I make at the -- these 11:04:02

16 meetings will often anticipate specific questions 11:04:10

17 from the survey that they have filled out. 11:04:16

18 Q. So to some extent, your presentation is specifically 11:04:22

19 geared to what you have learned in this initial 11:04:26

20 survey that they have -- is the survey the same 11:04:28

21 thing as the computerized form? 11:04:30

22 A. Yes, whatever. 11:04:30
23 Q. So you may gear your remarks specifically to some of 11:04:34
24 the things that are revealed on the accumulation of 11:04:36
25 knowledge from those 2 or 300 people? 11:04:40

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1 A. No, I do not know specifically any of the data that 11:04:42
2 has come back. 11:04:44
3 Q. Oh, okay. 11:04:46
4 A. This is so that they will have, obviously, questions 11:04:48
5 relating to those things. The general areas as far 11:04:54
6 as causative agents, of course, are the same whether 11:04:56
7 you talk to a group of employees in the daytime or 11:05:02
8 that same group of employees who are now attending a 11:05:06
9 course in the evening. 11:05:06
10 Q. Okay. So you are responsive to whatever the 11:05:12
11 questions that the audience ask? 11:05:14
12 A. Try to be. 11:05:14
13 Q. And these people, by the time you meet with them, 11:05:18
14 they have received back some type of evaluation 11:05:20
15 based upon the data that they provided? 11:05:22
16 A. Yes. 11:05:24
17 Q. And the blood that they provided? 11:05:26
18 A. Yes, sir. 11:05:26
19 Q. So they have some -- they have information about 11:05:28
20 whatever the total cholesterol level is in their 11:05:32
21 blood and the good and bad, using layperson's 11:05:36
22 terms -- 11:05:36
23 A. Yes. 11:05:38

24 Q. -- dividing it up? Okay. So they may ask specific 11:05:40
25 questions about that? 11:05:42

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1 A. Yes, sir. 11:05:42
2 Q. Now, what do you tell these folks at this meeting 11:05:54
3 when they ask questions and when two or three say, 11:05:56
4 you know, my cholesterol level is higher than 200, 11:06:02
5 or whatever? I don't know what's on your form. 11:06:04
6 What is on your form as a normal cholesterol? 11:06:06
7 A. We -- there are national standards from the adult 11:06:10
8 treatment guidelines for patients with 11:06:14
9 hypercholesterolemia, and we adhere to the national 11:06:22
10 standards. 11:06:22
11 Talking -- we do not -- as I said 11:06:30
12 previously, this is not individual medical 11:06:32
13 consultations, and we encourage people to discuss 11:06:38
14 their own personal situation with their primary care 11:06:42
15 physician. 11:06:42
16 Q. Okay. So do you provide or does the information 11:06:48
17 they get provide them with whatever the figures that 11:06:52
18 are used for the national standard? 11:06:54
19 A. I am not aware -- I am not sure what the forms 11:07:00
20 exactly say. They give a rating scale of a certain 11:07:08
21 number for their cholesterol, and I am not sure 11:07:12
22 without looking at it if the adult treatment 11:07:14
23 guidelines are part of the literature they receive. 11:07:16
24 Q. Okay. Because they get handouts as part of the 11:07:20
25 attendance at this? 11:07:22

1 A. Yes. 11:07:22

2 Q. Are these handouts that are prepared by the Heart 11:07:26

3 Institute? 11:07:26

4 A. There are handouts that are prepared by the 11:07:28

5 third-party provider as part of the computer 11:07:32

6 package. There are also individual -- or handouts 11:07:36

7 from the Heart Institute Foundation regarding 11:07:38

8 causative factors for coronary artery disease, and 11:07:42

9 so there is -- you know, this is an educative 11:07:48

10 process and so they get a number of different 11:07:52

11 handouts. 11:07:52

12 Q. Do you, as part of this, hand out booklets or 11:07:56

13 pamphlets from the American Heart Association? 11:07:58

14 A. That very likely would be included. And, again, in 11:08:04

15 a typical presentation or series of talks there 11:08:18

16 would be articles from the American Heart 11:08:20

17 Association included in that. 11:08:22

18 Q. So they would get handouts that were -- of materials 11:08:26

19 that were provided by the American Heart 11:08:30

20 Association, the foundation, okay, and any others? 11:08:36

21 A. The third-party -- 11:08:38

22 Q. That's right, the computer, provider of the computer 11:08:40

23 program? 11:08:40

24 A. Right. 11:08:42

25 Q. What type of handouts -- who is the provider of the 11:08:44

1 computer program? 11:08:46

2 A. I don't know the company. 11:08:48

3 Q. What kind of handouts do they provide? 11:08:50

4 A. They provide -- again, I am playing off my memory so 11:08:56

5 I can't say exactly, but general information 11:09:00

6 regarding the point scoring system that they have 11:09:06

7 used based on the Framingham Heart Study. 11:09:10

8 Q. I saw -- and I didn't send you because I couldn't 11:09:12

9 put my fingers on it, and I thought it was published 11:09:16

10 by a drug company that was in the business, among 11:09:20

11 other things, of providing these 11:09:22

12 cholesterol-lowering drugs, but I thought it had 11:09:24

13 sort of the American Heart Association stamp on it, 11:09:28

14 kind of a survey that's been published in books 11:09:32

15 you -- magazines you see on airplanes. 11:09:36

16 Do you know what I am talking about there? 11:09:36

17 A. The American Heart Association, approximately four 11:09:40

18 years ago, put out a worksheet that to help 11:09:50

19 determine cardiac risk by -- based on the Framingham 11:09:56

20 data weighting the various causative agents for 11:10:02

21 coronary artery disease and stroke. 11:10:06

22 Q. And this is a worksheet. Is this one of the -- one 11:10:10

23 I have seen, and I wondered if it's consistent with 11:10:12

24 what you are talking about, has various kinds of 11:10:16

25 data that you -- you know, starting with age and 11:10:22

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1 talking about smoking and talking about cholesterol 11:10:24

2 levels, and you get kind of a 1 or a 2 depending 11:10:28

3 on -- maybe it's a 3, as well, depending on which 11:10:32
4 box you check. 11:10:32
5 Is this the type of thing that you are 11:10:34
6 referring to? And then it comes up with a score? 11:10:36
7 A. Yeah, there are worksheets out there that have been, 11:10:44
8 you know, put out there by the American Heart 11:10:46
9 Association and I think, you know, as we go along 11:10:50
10 here, as we talk more into kind of things, 11:10:52
11 epidemiologic areas, I think this would probably be 11:10:54
12 an area that would be best visited by the 11:10:56
13 epidemiologists in this case. 11:11:00
14 Q. You being more comfortable working with the articles 11:11:04
15 as opposed to a worksheet? 11:11:04
16 A. Excuse me? 11:11:06
17 Q. Would you be more comfortable examining some of the 11:11:10
18 medical articles as opposed to this worksheet or 11:11:12
19 survey form put out by the American Heart 11:11:14
20 Association?
21 A. You know, we try and individualize patient care and 11:11:22
22 look at each patient in our clinical practice. 11:11:26
23 That's what, you know, it's all about is to give the 11:11:30
24 best care to the best patient as they present. 11:11:34
25 However, the summation of those leads to, 11:11:40

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1 you know, very powerful statistical analyses which I 11:11:42
2 think, again, are best addressed by people who are 11:11:44
3 experts in that area. 11:11:46
4 Q. Are you an expert in statistics? 11:11:48

5 A. I am not. 11:11:48

6 Q. You are not a statistician or a biostatistician? 11:11:52

7 A. Absolutely not. 11:11:54

8 Q. Okay. And what you focus on in your practice is an 11:11:58

9 individual patient and whatever risk factors that 11:12:02

10 they might have and what treatments and preventive 11:12:06

11 medicine recommendations that you can offer them; is 11:12:10

12 that right?

13 A. We take them one at a time when they come in the 11:12:16

14 door. 11:12:16

15 Q. Okay. One more question on this survey or worksheet 11:12:20

16 that you talked about and identified as the American 11:12:22

17 Heart Association worksheet. 11:12:24

18 Did you have anything to do with the 11:12:26

19 design or creation of that? 11:12:28

20 A. No, sir. 11:12:28

21 Q. Did you have anything to do with the design or 11:12:34

22 creation of the computerized worksheet that is used 11:12:38

23 in these biannual meetings and provided by this 11:12:40

24 third-party provider? 11:12:42

25 A. No, sir. 11:12:42

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1 Q. What is the nature of the third-party provider? Are 11:12:46

2 they a medical company of some kind? 11:12:48

3 A. I really don't know, but they -- I presume -- I have 11:12:54

4 always presumed that that was their business. But I 11:13:00

5 am not involved in the organization or the hiring of 11:13:00

6 these companies, so I really can't help you out on 11:13:04

7 that. 11:13:04

8 Q. So this company comes in and works with the 11:13:06
9 foundation in respect to this meeting? 11:13:10
10 A. I think that they just -- there is no physical 11:13:14
11 presence. I think they send their product. 11:13:16
12 Q. Okay. With respect to the American Heart 11:13:20
13 Association, I noticed on your CV which you have 11:13:22
14 there in front of you, it's been marked as an 11:13:24
15 exhibit, that you were the chair of the Physician 11:13:28
16 Cholesterol Task Force for about three years? 11:13:30
17 A. Yes, sir. 11:13:32
18 Q. Tell me what that organization was about. 11:13:34
19 A. Well, the Minnesota affiliate of the American -- 11:13:40
20 these -- you know, 1989 and '88 was an era where 11:13:44
21 people were just beginning to really accept that 11:13:50
22 cholesterol was one of the causative agents of 11:13:54
23 coronary artery disease. 11:13:56
24 And with that, there was a lot of 11:14:00
25 educational efforts being done at that time by the 11:14:06

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1 American Heart Association to help physicians -- 11:14:12
2 educate physicians regarding the appropriate 11:14:16
3 diagnosis and treatment of hypercholesterolemia. I, 11:14:20
4 for a couple of years, essentially coordinated that 11:14:22
5 effort. 11:14:24
6 Q. So what, then, did that involve? 11:14:28
7 A. It involved meetings with various districts of the 11:14:38
8 Minnesota affiliate throughout the state. There 11:14:42
9 were a couple of large physician educational 11:14:44

10 meetings that were organized and, essentially, 11:14:50
11 organizing those and arranging for speakers to come 11:14:56
12 and overseeing the registration and just a whole 11:15:00
13 host of things that would go along with that. 11:15:02
14 Q. Would you actually speak at these presentations? 11:15:04
15 A. I did speak at a couple of them. 11:15:06
16 Q. And what would you -- would you be telling them -- 11:15:10
17 educating them about the -- as you say, the 11:15:14
18 information that was becoming developed about high 11:15:18
19 cholesterol and, also, the presence of these 11:15:20
20 cholesterol-lowering medications? 11:15:22
21 A. I think not so much the cholesterol-lowering 11:15:28
22 medications but the developing data at that time 11:15:30
23 that cholesterol was a causative agent, that LDL 11:15:36
24 cholesterol was -- especially for the publication of 11:15:40
25 a couple of major trials, was involved in the 11:15:44

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1 process of atherosclerosis, and then the interaction 11:15:50
2 of those risk factors with other causative agents 11:15:56
3 that could potentially, you know, lead to -- and 11:16:00
4 basic -- implementing preventive programs in primary 11:16:06
5 care settings. 11:16:06
6 Q. Preventative programs at that time would, what, 11:16:12
7 relate to diet and weight reduction? 11:16:14
8 A. And, if necessary, pharmacologic therapy, but the 11:16:20
9 programs generally were not focusing on 11:16:24
10 pharmacologic therapy. 11:16:26
11 Q. Because those drugs were just becoming available at 11:16:32
12 that time?

13 A. I think that was not the focus of them. The focus 11:16:36
14 was to just put out the information, developing 11:16:44
15 information from a number of large trials, about 11:16:48
16 cholesterol and LDL cholesterol as a potential 11:16:54
17 causative agent for coronary artery disease. 11:17:00
18 Q. And when you talked about high cholesterol as a 11:17:02
19 causative agent to these groups back in 1989 and 11:17:08
20 later, which particular studies would you site? 11:17:10
21 These were professional groups, so which 11:17:12
22 particular studies would you advise them about? 11:17:18
23 A. The two major population studies that were looked at 11:17:28
24 were the Lipid Research Clinic Trial that was 11:17:32
25 published in 1986 and then the Helsinki Heart Trial, 11:17:44

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1 which was published, I think, in 1989, and both had 11:17:50
2 greater than 4,000 patients. 11:17:52
3 And so it had -- a fair amount of patients 11:17:56
4 were followed for, in one study, nine years, and 11:17:58
5 another study six years. 11:18:00
6 Q. Okay. So that would be -- you would discuss the 11:18:04
7 data and conclusions that were made by the 11:18:06
8 scientists and physicians based upon those 11:18:10
9 particular trials? 11:18:12
10 A. Yes. 11:18:14
11 Q. Did you augment it with any data that you had 11:18:16
12 accumulated within your own practice? 11:18:18
13 A. At that time I was just initiating myself into 11:18:22
14 practice and did not have a -- did not have a 11:18:26

15 database from a clinical practice at that time. 11:18:30
16 Q. But your group had a database, I assume, the group 11:18:34
17 that you had joined. Did you use any of that data? 11:18:36
18 A. No, sir. 11:18:38
19 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay. Let's take a break. 11:18:40
20 (A recess was taken.) 11:29:48
21 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
22 Q. We are back on the record and we have taken a break 11:29:50
23 and we have had marked, Doctor, as Exhibit 1752, 11:29:54
24 which states on the front Plaintiffs' Expert Report 11:29:58
25 of Kevin J. Graham, M.D., and simply put that in 11:30:00

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1 front of you and ask you to identify that. 11:30:02
2 A. So identified. 11:30:06
3 Q. That's your report? 11:30:08
4 A. Yes, sir. 11:30:08
5 Q. Okay. I take it prior to -- I am not trying to get 11:30:14
6 into communications, necessarily, with lawyers, but 11:30:16
7 prior to that you were advised that it was a 11:30:18
8 requirement of jurisprudence that you submit an 11:30:24
9 expert report that would cover the matters that you 11:30:26
10 were going to testify about in front of the jury at 11:30:30
11 trial? 11:30:30
12 A. Yes, sir. 11:30:32
13 Q. And you understood that that's, in large part, the 11:30:34
14 purpose of this report? 11:30:34
15 A. Yes, sir. 11:30:36
16 Q. And you, when you prepared that report, did that 11:30:40
17 with -- Exhibit 1752, you did that with that 11:30:44

18 knowledge in mind? 11:30:44
19 A. Yes, sir. 11:30:46
20 Q. And did you actually prepare that report or work 11:30:54
21 with the lawyer to prepare it? 11:30:56
22 A. I prepared it independently. 11:30:58
23 Q. And I think that report, Exhibit 1752, is dated June 11:31:02
24 2nd -- 11:31:04
25 A. Yes, sir. 11:31:04

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1 Q. -- of this year. Were there any prior versions of 11:31:06
2 that report? 11:31:06
3 A. I went through one prior version of the report. 11:31:12
4 Q. Could you -- can you briefly describe whatever 11:31:20
5 revisions or changes were made. 11:31:22
6 A. I did review it with Howard Orenstein. The only 11:31:26
7 revisions were made -- none in the content, but in 11:31:32
8 the arrangement of some of the -- where some of the 11:31:38
9 things fell in the report. 11:31:40
10 Q. Okay. So there were no additions or subtractions to 11:31:46
11 the content? 11:31:46
12 A. No. 11:31:46
13 Q. And you prepared that, then, on your own and that, 11:31:48
14 in effect, is your testimony prepared by yourself? 11:31:52
15 A. Yes, sir. 11:31:52
16 Q. Did you have any particular items that you used as 11:31:56
17 references or do you simply sit down and dictate or 11:32:00
18 write out that report? I realize there are some 11:32:02
19 articles that are referenced. 11:32:04

20 A. Right. And those, obviously, you know, were 11:32:08
21 referred to in the report, but the report talks 11:32:16
22 to -- speaks to our -- my particular clinical 11:32:22
23 practice, how patients, as I see them from my 11:32:26
24 training and my eight and a half years of experience 11:32:32
25 in practice, present with coronary artery disease, 11:32:36

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1 the clinical sequelae of that, and the 11:32:42
2 reasonableness of the Blue Cross and Medicaid 11:32:48
3 involvement with them in the Minnesota population 11:32:56
4 that we are involved with. 11:32:56
5 Q. Okay. And you had plenty of time to prepare the 11:33:00
6 report, you weren't under the gun or rushed or 11:33:02
7 anything? 11:33:02
8 A. I had fine time. 11:33:04
9 Q. And you, in that report, Exhibit 1752, you had nine 11:33:10
10 references cited? 11:33:10
11 A. Yes, sir. 11:33:12
12 Q. Did you go back -- with the exception of the 11:33:14
13 textbook, did you go back and read that data, the 11:33:18
14 article? 11:33:18
15 A. The references? 11:33:20
16 Q. Yes. 11:33:22
17 A. Yes, sir. 11:33:22
18 Q. So you had those available to you when you put 11:33:26
19 together your report? 11:33:28
20 A. Yes. 11:33:28
21 Q. Now, as an expert witness in this case are you aware 11:33:38
22 you are entitled to make a charge for your 11:33:42

23 professional time? 11:33:42
24 A. Yes, sir. 11:33:44
25 Q. Okay. What is your arrangement in respect to that? 11:33:46

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1 A. I am doing this without charge. 11:33:48
2 Q. So this is something that you will be making no 11:33:50
3 charge for your deposition or for your trial 11:33:54
4 testimony; is that right? 11:33:56
5 A. Yes, sir. 11:33:56
6 Q. Now, we were talking before the break about your 11:34:02
7 early work in respect to educating physicians under 11:34:10
8 the auspices of the American Heart Association, 11:34:12
9 local branch, about what was going on with research 11:34:16
10 involving persons who had high cholesterol. Right? 11:34:22
11 A. Yes. 11:34:24
12 Q. Pick up from there. What -- and you told us earlier 11:34:28
13 that there were organizations that set the criteria 11:34:30
14 in terms of what is a high or low cholesterol, 11:34:32
15 right? 11:34:34
16 A. Yes, sir. 11:34:36
17 Q. Can you recall what the figures would be for a high 11:34:40
18 or low cholesterol? 11:34:40
19 A. Regarding a lipid panel, the desirable cholesterol 11:34:50
20 was less than 130 milligrams per deciliter. Points 11:34:58
21 for starting dietary therapy were over 160 11:35:02
22 milligrams per deciliter, and depending on 11:35:08
23 concomitant risk factors, causative agents for 11:35:12
24 coronary disease, the -- depending -- and also 11:35:20

25 whether the patient had disease or not would 11:35:24

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1 determine the aggressiveness of treating that 11:35:28
2 cholesterol and in a particular patient. 11:35:34
3 Q. Who was at that time setting the standard, the 11:35:38
4 figures? 11:35:38
5 A. The National Cholesterol Education Program sponsored 11:35:44
6 by the National Institutes of Health let forth or 11:35:54
7 set forth the initial cholesterol education 11:35:58
8 standards. 11:35:58
9 Q. Are they still the organization that is setting 11:36:02
10 those standards today that you follow? 11:36:02
11 A. The -- there has been a secondary modification of 11:36:08
12 those that, essentially, puts into play even more 11:36:14
13 aggressive treatment of lowering LDL cholesterol in 11:36:18
14 patients with known disease called the Adult 11:36:22
15 Treatment Guidelines that were in 1993. 11:36:24
16 Q. But by the same organization? 11:36:30
17 A. Yes, sir. 11:36:30
18 Q. Is that still the -- is it still that organization 11:36:34
19 that sets the standards that you follow today in 11:36:36
20 your practice? 11:36:38
21 A. The Adult Treatment Guidelines are the -- they have 11:36:40
22 been published. 11:36:40
23 Q. When did these medications, these -- to lower 11:36:54
24 cholesterol become available for physicians to use 11:36:56
25 with patients? 11:36:58

1 A. Well, cholesterol-lowering medications, niacin has 11:37:04
2 been used to treat cholesterol effectively for over 11:37:08
3 50 years. 11:37:10
4 The cholestyramine type treatments have 11:37:16
5 been available for 30 to 40 years. Lopid or 11:37:20
6 gemfibrizol has been available for probably 15 to 20 11:37:26
7 years. The class of medications called the statins 11:37:34
8 that was referenced earlier have now been available 11:37:38
9 for about ten years on -- in the marketplace. 11:37:42
10 Q. So they have, essentially, been available since the 11:37:48
11 time just before you completed your fellowship? 11:37:52
12 A. Yes, sir. 11:37:52
13 Q. Now, if you or -- we talked in 1989 when you were 11:38:02
14 doing presentations to physicians and talking about 11:38:06
15 high cholesterol and what then recent studies had 11:38:14
16 shown, the Helsinki Trial and the Lipid Research 11:38:20
17 Trial. 11:38:20
18 If you were giving those same 11:38:22
19 presentations today talking about that topic, would 11:38:24
20 you reference that data or newer data, and if so, 11:38:26
21 what data would you reference? 11:38:28
22 A. Those trials that I spoke of before were in the 11:38:34
23 primary prevention area, and with that, they have 11:38:42
24 been landmark -- remain landmark trials in that 11:38:50
25 regard. 11:38:50

1 Since that time there have been a number 11:38:54
2 of secondary prevention trials that were published 11:38:58
3 in the early 1990s looking at the lipid hypothesis 11:39:06
4 in patients with known disease. 11:39:14
5 The -- probably the most quoted was the 11:39:18
6 FATS, F-A-T-S, trial, Familial Atherosclerosis 11:39:26
7 Treatment Study, from Dr. Greg Brown in Seattle, 11:39:30
8 Washington. 11:39:32
9 It looked at -- it was an angiographic 11:39:36
10 trial that looked at roughly 150 patients with known 11:39:42
11 disease to try and show stabilization or regression 11:39:44
12 with aggressive lipid lowering with Colestipol and 11:39:50
13 niacin in one group, for lovastatin and niacin in 11:40:02
14 another group, for standard care in a third group. 11:40:04
15 That, then, led to larger population base 11:40:08
16 studies that have been published in the last couple 11:40:12
17 of years. The largest and probably most oft quoted 11:40:16
18 would be the 4-S study that was published in Lancet 11:40:22
19 a couple of years ago, and the West of Scotland 11:40:30
20 Trial that was published approximately a year and a 11:40:34
21 half ago. 11:40:34
22 These are studies that certainly 11:40:40
23 practicing cardiologists and almost all primary care 11:40:46
24 physicians are well aware of. 11:40:48
25 Q. But those are the ones -- if they came up as a topic 11:40:54

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1 during your presentation, those are the ones that 11:40:58
2 you would cite? 11:40:58
3 A. Those are the most -- probably the most often-cited 11:41:02

4 studies. 11:41:02

5 Q. Where was the Dr. Brown work published? 11:41:06

6 A. In the New England Journal of Medicine. 11:41:08

7 Q. When did you become interested in the matter of 11:41:16

8 secondary prevention? 11:41:18

9 A. As I stated earlier, in my residency at Hennepin 11:41:28

10 County Medical Center I -- an acute care county 11:41:34

11 hospital setting, we saw a lot of patients with 11:41:40

12 acute presentations of coronary artery disease, and 11:41:44

13 I was struck by the amount of them who had 11:41:48

14 modifiable causative agents that would come back 11:41:56

15 again without those agents or without those factors 11:42:06

16 identified and treated. 11:42:10

17 Q. So you have been interested in that issue most of 11:42:14

18 your career as a cardiologist? 11:42:18

19 A. Yes, even before I went into -- 11:42:20

20 Q. Even before you went in to become a cardiologist. 11:42:24

21 Okay. 11:42:26

22 Now, you indicated that -- in your report 11:42:36

23 that a part of your practice involves certain kinds 11:42:38

24 of procedures involving the heart. 11:42:42

25 How much of your time is devoted to that? 11:42:46

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1 A. I spend approximately ten weeks per year in the 11:42:50

2 cardiocatheterization laboratory. 11:42:52

3 Q. This is kind of like a rotating assignment where you 11:42:56

4 share the responsibilities for that? 11:42:58

5 A. There are three cardiologists on any given day in 11:43:00

6 our practice of 25 cardiologists who are doing 11:43:04
7 catheterization procedures. 11:43:06
8 Q. And did you also indicate that you did some work 11:43:14
9 with pacemakers? 11:43:16
10 A. I usually implant 20 to 30 pacemakers per year. 11:43:20
11 Q. Is that on some kind of rotation responsibility 11:43:24
12 among your group or just happens to be patients that 11:43:28
13 you have seen?
14 A. Some of my own personal patients and other patients 11:43:32
15 in the group as time allows. 11:43:34
16 Q. Now, within your group or at Abbott Northwestern 11:43:52
17 have they collected data that deals with 11:43:56
18 hypercholesterol and do they use that data in the 11:44:02
19 performance of their function as a physician? 11:44:04
20 A. Could you define "they" for me? 11:44:10
21 Q. You or your group. 11:44:12
22 A. Our group. We do collect data regarding cholesterol 11:44:20
23 levels in certain groups of patients, but we return 11:44:26
24 the patient to the primary care physician as a role 11:44:32
25 of consultative cardiologists. 11:44:34

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1 We do not usually follow the patients on a 11:44:36
2 chronic basis. They are followed by the primary 11:44:40
3 care physician. That's part of our group 11:44:42
4 philosophy. 11:44:42
5 Q. Okay. So what use, if any, is made of that data, 11:44:50
6 even after the patient returns to their primary care 11:44:52
7 physician? 11:44:52
8 A. The data that is collected on certain groups of 11:45:02

9 patients as far as what their cholesterol is is used 11:45:08
10 in aggregate to speak to what kind of job we, with 11:45:16
11 our primary care physician partners, are doing 11:45:18
12 treating patients, especially the patients with 11:45:24
13 known disease. 11:45:28
14 Q. Why are they a particular focus? 11:45:32
15 A. From our standpoint, seeing the bottom of the 11:45:38
16 funnel, if you would, from the standpoint of 11:45:42
17 patients who make it to the hospital setting, we -- 11:45:48
18 that gives us some indication of if they have had a 11:45:50
19 previous event, if they are -- if we are working 11:45:54
20 with our primary care partners in a good fashion to 11:46:00
21 make sure that those patients get all of the 11:46:02
22 causative agents addressed, did we get them to stop 11:46:08
23 smoking, did we get their cholesterol treated, did 11:46:16
24 we get them exercises, all of the things that will 11:46:16
25 keep them from coming back again. 11:46:18

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1 Q. This is a broad question. Is there a difference in 11:46:26
2 terms of the preventive recommendations that you 11:46:28
3 make if you are dealing with a person who has not 11:46:32
4 had, as you say, a cardiac event, i.e., primary 11:46:36
5 prevention, and a person who has had some kind of 11:46:40
6 episode, i.e., secondary prevention, or is it pretty 11:46:44
7 much the same regimen? 11:46:46
8 A. There is a difference. 11:46:50
9 Q. Okay. Tell me what the difference is. 11:46:52
10 A. Somebody who has had an event, there is now no 11:47:04

11 question that that patient's atherosclerosis has 11:47:10
12 presented clinically, and that further 11:47:16
13 presentations, especially if they have had a heart 11:47:20
14 attack, are -- place them at even higher risk for 11:47:34
15 sudden death or for worse outcomes long term. 11:47:40
16 The secondary prevention data has 11:47:50
17 supported even more aggressive treatment of 11:47:54
18 cholesterol lowering in this population in order to 11:48:00
19 try and prevent -- in the -- I guess I should say a 11:48:06
20 very high risk population in order to try and 11:48:08
21 prevent further episodes, and the data has supported 11:48:14
22 that the general issues that lower cholesterol are 11:48:20
23 better. So in secondary prevention the stakes 11:48:34
24 become even somewhat higher. 11:48:36
25 Q. Because the risk is higher because they have already 11:48:38

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1 had an event? 11:48:40
2 A. Yes. 11:48:40
3 Q. Now, then, does that mean that you use different 11:48:46
4 guidelines in terms of cholesterol level when you 11:48:48
5 are dealing with a situation or a patient with 11:48:52
6 primary prevention needs versus secondary prevention 11:48:56
7 needs? 11:48:56
8 A. It is a graduated guideline that takes into whether 11:49:00
9 the patient has known disease or not. It's all the 11:49:06
10 same guideline, it's just the level of 11:49:08
11 aggressiveness, depending on whether they have 11:49:12
12 disease. 11:49:12
13 Q. Okay. Well, let me make sure that I understand as a 11:49:16

14	layperson. If I understand what you are saying in	11:49:22
15	terms of aggressiveness with respect to high	11:49:24
16	cholesterol, there is these medications, some of	11:49:26
17	which have been available for years, but now the	11:49:30
18	newer ones have been available about the last ten	11:49:32
19	years, right?	11:49:34
20	A. (Witness indicating in the affirmative.)	11:49:36
21	Q. Right, that's one technique, right?	11:49:38
22	A. Yes.	11:49:38
23	Q. Diet, I assume, is a technique?	11:49:42
24	A. Yes.	11:49:42
25	Q. Okay. Recommended exercise is a technique?	11:49:46

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1	A. If it's --	11:49:48
2	Q. If it's suitable for that --	11:49:50
3	A. Sure.	11:49:50
4	Q. All right. Now, what else, then -- are those the	11:49:56
5	types of things, when you talk about an aggressive	11:50:00
6	approach versus an approach you might use with	11:50:02
7	primary, or are we talking about a more aggressive	11:50:04
8	drug regimen?	11:50:06
9	A. I think that the risk of a second event is what we	11:50:14
10	try and impress upon somebody who has had one event	11:50:20
11	and that by taking away the injurious agents that	11:50:28
12	could be leading -- or that are leading to,	11:50:32
13	potentially, a second event, that you can have an	11:50:36
14	impact on the disease progress.	11:50:42
15	Stopping smoking, if the patient is a	11:50:44

16 smoker, is the biggest thing that they can do in one 11:50:46
17 year's time to decrease their risk. 11:50:50
18 And it's -- again, we would speak more to 11:50:54
19 the epidemiologists to quantify that risk, but as a 11:50:58
20 strong message to a patient who is sitting on the 11:51:02
21 examining table and I am across from that patient, 11:51:04
22 the biggest thing I tell them they can do in one 11:51:08
23 year's time is to quit smoking. 11:51:10
24 Q. But let's assume you are dealing with a nonsmoker 11:51:14
25 who has had a heart attack, he or she can't quit 11:51:16

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1 smoking because they don't smoke? 11:51:18
2 A. That's right. 11:51:20
3 Q. So what do you tell them in respect to what you can 11:51:22
4 offer them and recommendations and treatments? 11:51:24
5 A. Aggressive lipid lowering, exercise, diet, weight 11:51:28
6 loss, control of blood pressure if it's elevated; if 11:51:32
7 they are diabetic, optimum control of the blood 11:51:36
8 sugar. Those are the standard things that we would 11:51:42
9 offer to most patients. 11:51:44
10 Q. Okay. Now, these would be the same things, to one 11:51:48
11 degree or another, that you would have recommended 11:51:50
12 to a patient that you had consulted with in respect 11:51:58
13 to primary prevention? There may be different 11:52:02
14 degrees, but -- 11:52:04
15 A. Yes, sir. 11:52:04
16 Q. -- and maybe closer management, but the same general 11:52:06
17 recommendations and treatment plan would have been 11:52:10
18 in existence? 11:52:10

19 A. Yes. 11:52:12
20 Q. And there is not something new and different you can 11:52:16
21 say to somebody who has had a heart attack in terms 11:52:18
22 of secondary prevention? 11:52:18
23 A. I think that the -- what we can tell them is that 11:52:24
24 there is hope, that they do not necessarily -- if 11:52:30
25 they address the causative agents, that they do not 11:52:34

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1 necessarily have to have a progressive disease. 11:52:36
2 Q. Okay. Do you tell them that with proper control of 11:52:42
3 diet, that they can have a regressive disease? 11:52:46
4 A. I think that looking at, again, the literature 11:52:56
5 regarding this, regression was a goal 10 to 15 years 11:53:02
6 ago. 11:53:02
7 Stabilization, for most people, is a 11:53:10
8 realistic goal because we know that the 11:53:12
9 pathophysiology of the progression of disease 11:53:14
10 oftentimes is plaque rupture with -- and that most 11:53:22
11 heart attacks are caused by 30 to 50 percent 11:53:24
12 blockage that then suddenly ruptures. 11:53:26
13 That's why when you smoke in a 11:53:30
14 thrombogenic state, stopping smoking and decreasing 11:53:38
15 the ability of the platelets to aggregate when you 11:53:40
16 stop smoking is -- results in an immediate decrease 11:53:44
17 in cardiac risk. 11:53:46
18 Q. Platelet factor is also a factor if it's a 11:53:56
19 not-controlled diabetic? 11:53:56
20 A. Is that a question? 11:53:58

21 Q. Yes. Is that true? 11:53:58
22 A. In patients who have uncontrolled diabetes, platelet 11:54:06
23 and uremia, a number of states can cause platelet 11:54:10
24 dysfunction. 11:54:10
25 Q. Okay. So let's, then, talk about the secondary 11:54:14

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1 patient and what you can offer them. 11:54:18
2 And my question was about regression, and 11:54:20
3 you said that was popular about 15 years ago, 10 or 11:54:24
4 15. 11:54:24
5 A. As a -- you know, as the goal of angiographic trials 11:54:32
6 and all. 11:54:32
7 Q. Right. And you did, I think, on your CV, indicate 11:54:36
8 that you had an interest in regression, true? 11:54:40
9 A. Yes, sir. 11:54:42
10 Q. That is a current interest? 11:54:42
11 A. Yes. It's a term, but most coronary disease, I 11:54:52
12 think if you have a 50 percent blockage in your left 11:54:56
13 anterior descending coronary artery and are 11:55:00
14 asymptomatic from that, at the time -- at this time, 11:55:04
15 as long as that remains stabilized for most people, 11:55:10
16 you will be fine. 11:55:10
17 Q. So your interest in regression, do you think that is 11:55:18
18 a current viable theory or approach, or feasible? 11:55:24
19 For example, are you acquainted with a Dr. Dean 11:55:28
20 Ornish? 11:55:28
21 A. I am. 11:55:30
22 Q. Read his book or books? 11:55:30
23 A. Yes, sir. 11:55:32

24 Q. He talks about regression, has some data in the 11:55:34
25 books, right? 11:55:34

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1 A. Uh-huh. 11:55:36
2 Q. Are you -- are your views consistent with his in 11:55:40
3 respect to the proper diet, tightly-controlled diet, 11:55:46
4 all other things being equal, regression can occur? 11:55:48
5 A. I think that regression is a relative term, and I 11:55:56
6 will explain what I mean by that. 11:55:58
7 A lot of the research in the past ten 11:56:00
8 years has begun to focus on endothelial health, and 11:56:08
9 we also know -- 11:56:08
10 Q. Want to spell that? 11:56:10
11 A. E-N-D-O-T-H-E-L-I-A-L. 11:56:14
12 In an artery that has a 50 percent 11:56:18
13 blockage, if the artery is in spasm, in an unhealthy 11:56:24
14 state, and we know that that is also one of the 11:56:26
15 detriments of cigarette smoke, it causes the artery 11:56:30
16 to vasospasm, that 50 percent -- 11:56:32
17 Q. What I want to talk about, Doctor -- I don't mean to 11:56:36
18 interrupt you -- is I want to talk about 11:56:38
19 regression. 11:56:38
20 A. I am explaining that. Okay? And I will explain to 11:56:40
21 you why -- 11:56:40
22 Q. And my question was -- and we can go back -- was do 11:56:44
23 you believe that Dr. Ornish's approach has some 11:56:48
24 validity? 11:56:50
25 A. Yes, sir. 11:56:50

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1 Q. And do you utilize those techniques in your 11:56:52
2 practice, diet recommendations? 11:56:54
3 A. Yes, sir. 11:56:56
4 Q. Okay. And when you are talking with patients that 11:57:00
5 are in the secondary -- that need secondary 11:57:02
6 prevention, do you talk with them about diet? 11:57:04
7 A. Yes, sir. 11:57:06
8 Q. Do you have suggested diets? 11:57:06
9 A. Yes, sir. 11:57:06
10 Q. Okay. And in respect to patients needing primary 11:57:12
11 prevention, do you talk with them about proper diet? 11:57:14
12 A. Yes, sir. 11:57:16
13 Q. And you talk with them about the context of proper 11:57:22
14 diet and exercise? 11:57:22
15 A. Yes, sir. 11:57:24
16 Q. Do you give them information about the benefits of 11:57:26
17 exercise in terms of reducing your risk of having 11:57:32
18 cardiovascular disease? 11:57:32
19 A. Yes, sir. 11:57:34
20 Q. I saw some quotations in newspapers about a 11:57:38
21 discussion of a particular kind of body shape and 11:57:42
22 exercise. 11:57:42
23 A. Uh-huh. Yes, sir. 11:57:44
24 Q. Do you remember telling the press or giving the 11:57:46
25 press some information about studies or ideas in 11:57:48

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<http://legacy.library.ucsf.edu/tid/nsm05a00/pdf> <http://industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/yhxd0001>

2 the waist-hip ratio? 11:59:18

3 A. As far as -- yes, sir. 11:59:20

4 Q. And would that be a causative risk factor? 11:59:28

5 A. I think it's associated with a number of things that 11:59:34

6 go along with that. 11:59:36

7 Q. Like, for example, high total cholesterol? 11:59:40

8 A. High triglycerides, low HDL cholesterol. 11:59:56

9 Q. Do you agree that sedentary lifestyle is a 12:00:04

10 significant risk factor? 12:00:06

11 A. In this group, subgroup of patients, it appears to 12:00:10

12 be associated with the body shape. 12:00:14

13 Q. You were engaged, yourself, in doing this research. 12:00:18

14 Was this a project or just data that you 12:00:20

15 accumulated? 12:00:22

16 A. Just data that we have accumulated on these 12:00:24

17 patients. 12:00:24

18 Q. This was a -- this was a research focus that people 12:00:28

19 decided that they wanted to accumulate data on 12:00:30

20 patients that met this particular profile? 12:00:32

21 A. No, we -- of all patients that were 55 or under who 12:00:36

22 came in to the Heart Institute, so that we then 12:00:40

23 assembled the data and looked and said what did we 12:00:46

24 find. 12:00:46

25 Q. And what you found, then, was reported at the 12:00:52

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1 American College of Cardiology? 12:00:54

2 A. Yes, sir. 12:00:54

3 Q. Has that been an ongoing research project? 12:00:58

4 A. Yes, sir. 12:00:58

5	Q.	Have you found anything different than what you	12:01:02
6		reported back in 1992?	12:01:02
7	A.	No, sir.	12:01:04
8	Q.	Did you also in that study evaluate elevated serum	12:01:10
9		cholesterol levels?	12:01:12
10	A.	Yes, sir, as part of the lipid panel.	12:01:16
11	Q.	Okay. And, also, obesity as defined by 30 percent	12:01:24
12		or more overweight?	12:01:24
13	A.	Yes, sir.	12:01:26
14	Q.	Are those two related, the obesity and the elevated	12:01:28
15		cholesterol level?	12:01:30
16	A.	Not necessarily.	12:01:32
17	Q.	Did you find that stress was a factor?	12:01:38
18	A.	We have not -- in the scales that we have used, we	12:01:44
19		have not been able to identify a demonstrable	12:01:50
20		presenting stress scale that would lead patients in	12:01:58
21		to this presentation.	12:02:00
22	Q.	Does that mean you can't develop the criteria to	12:02:02
23		define stress?	12:02:02
24	A.	Well, the scale that we used, Holmes & Ray scale,	12:02:10
25		that is a predictor oftentimes of presentations for	12:02:14

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1		disease, we find that scores on that were not	12:02:20
2		uniformly high to a statistical degree.	12:02:22
3	Q.	So that did not meet the standard for a heart	12:02:28
4		disease risk factor under that research; is that	12:02:30
5		right?	
6	A.	In this particular patient population, the scale	12:02:36

7 that we used, and it very well, in looking back, may 12:02:42
8 have been the scale rather than the -- what we said, 12:02:46
9 so in summation of that, the tools we used for that 12:02:52
10 particular may not have been the best. 12:02:56
11 Q. Are you using a different tool now? 12:03:00
12 A. We have looked at a number of tools. We stopped 12:03:06
13 using the tool that we were using and we are looking 12:03:08
14 at a number of ones that may do a better job. 12:03:10
15 Q. Okay. Did you find in that research that high blood 12:03:14
16 pressure was a causative factor? 12:03:16
17 A. High blood pressure was related, but not -- we were 12:03:26
18 looking at gender differences in the abstract that 12:03:30
19 you were looking at. Between the sexes it was not 12:03:34
20 statistical significant, that one sex had more 12:03:42
21 hypertension than the other. 12:03:42
22 Q. But what you found was sedentary lifestyle and 12:03:48
23 truncal obesity were by far the most prevalent risk 12:03:52
24 factor; is that right? 12:03:54
25 A. At the time of presentation. 12:03:54

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1 Q. Tell me how, with a patient that has some kind of 12:04:08
2 episode and has had secondary prevention, what kind 12:04:14
3 of medication regimen do you suggest or recommend as 12:04:18
4 the treating physician? 12:04:18
5 A. It partly depends on the patient, of course. 12:04:28
6 Aspirin, as an anti-platelet drug to reverse the 12:04:32
7 ability to make blood clots within the bloodstream, 12:04:36
8 is a cornerstone. 12:04:38
9 Are you speaking of secondary prevention? 12:04:40

10 Q. Yes. 12:04:42

11 A. Patients who have had a completed transmural 12:04:44

12 myocardial infarction, we most oftentimes, if the 12:04:52

13 patient will tolerate them, recommend a class of 12:04:56

14 drugs called a beta blocker. 12:04:58

15 Patients who have had particular kinds of 12:05:02

16 infarctions called anterior infarctions, which 12:05:06

17 usually involve a large amount of myocardium, we 12:05:12

18 then will oftentimes recommend an ACE inhibitor -- 12:05:16

19 Q. That's A-C-E? 12:05:18

20 A. A-C-E. 12:05:18

21 Q. In caps? 12:05:20

22 A. -- inhibitor to decrease the strain on the heart, 12:05:28

23 and then, as far as regimens to look at people who 12:05:38

24 have high cholesterol, we want to bring the 12:05:42

25 cholesterol down first with diet, weight loss, 12:05:46

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1 exercise, if possible. 12:05:50

2 This is a group where the risks of ongoing 12:05:54

3 high cholesterol become higher; therefore, we will 12:05:56

4 oftentimes use pharmacologic therapy to drive the 12:06:00

5 LDL cholesterol less than 100 milligrams per 12:06:04

6 deciliter. 12:06:06

7 We will sometimes in this population, 12:06:08

8 depending on the coronary artery anatomy, if that is 12:06:12

9 known, recommend nicotine withdrawal therapy, if 12:06:16

10 they are heavier than one-pack-per-day smokers, and 12:06:20

11 if the coronary artery is anatomy we believe is not 12:06:24

12 at sufficient high risk. There have been reports of 12:06:26
13 problems with nicotine replacement therapy. And 12:06:32
14 then as we -- then those would be kind of 12:06:36
15 cornerstones of the usual things. 12:06:42
16 Within individual patients, other 12:06:44
17 medications, as far as controlling blood pressure, 12:06:48
18 controlling diabetes to an optimum degree, insulin, 12:06:54
19 oral hypoglycemic action agents, whatever, to 12:06:58
20 control those -- to normalize blood sugar as much as 12:07:04
21 possible, those types of things for individual 12:07:06
22 patients would come into play. 12:07:08
23 Q. In respect to the articles that you cited on your 12:07:26
24 report, I think you cited an article about aspirin. 12:07:28
25 Have you done some particular work with benefits of 12:07:32

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1 that in people that have had some kind of myocardial 12:07:36
2 infarction? 12:07:36
3 A. I have not been personally involved in the primary 12:07:40
4 or secondary aspirin prevention trials. 12:07:44
5 Q. Okay. What is the reason that, in a patient that 12:08:02
6 has secondary prevention with aggressive use of 12:08:04
7 medication, you would attempt to drive down the 12:08:08
8 cholesterol levels? 12:08:10
9 MR. EISBERG: I am sorry, would you repeat 12:08:12
10 the question, please. 12:08:14
11 MR. SHEPPARD: Sure. Want to read that 12:08:14
12 back? 12:08:14
13 (The record was read by the court
14 reporter.)

15 BY MR. SHEPPARD:

16 Q. Should say needs secondary prevention. 12:08:30
17 A. Again, the reason that we would hold down the 12:08:42
18 cholesterol levels in people like this is to try and 12:08:48
19 prevent, you know, a second event from the plaque 12:08:56
20 that is in the coronary artery disease -- coronary 12:09:02
21 artery progressing. 12:09:04
22 Q. If we have -- or you are presented with a patient 12:09:10
23 who has not had a myocardial infarction or other 12:09:16
24 cardiac event but you feel, as a physician, that 12:09:18
25 needs some primary prevention, what criteria do you 12:09:22

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1 use in respect to whether or not that primary 12:09:24
2 prevention should include the use of 12:09:28
3 cholesterol-lowering medications? 12:09:30
4 A. Looking -- in our -- our goal in patients, of 12:09:38
5 course, is to have them not present with the first 12:09:42
6 infarction, since oftentimes that is a fatal 12:09:50
7 infarct; the first presentation is -- of the disease 12:09:54
8 can be a fatal presentation. 12:09:56
9 So -- but we also do not take lightly the 12:10:00
10 initiation of life-long therapies in populations, so 12:10:10
11 we try and minimize the number of risk factors, and 12:10:16
12 depending on the concomitant risk factors will 12:10:18
13 determine whether a patient is committed to a 12:10:22
14 life-long of cholesterol-lowering medication. 12:10:24
15 So if a patient is overweight, we try and 12:10:28
16 get them to lose weight and take that off; if a 12:10:30

17 patient is not exercising, we try and get them to 12:10:34
18 exercise; if a patient is smoking, we try and get 12:10:38
19 them to quit smoking. We can't change their family 12:10:40
20 history. If a patient is diabetic, we try and go 12:10:44
21 for optimal diabetes control. 12:10:46
22 Depending on the success of the modifiable 12:10:50
23 risk factors, coupled with the family history as far 12:10:56
24 as genetics, that if people are dying prematurely of 12:12:06
25 coronary artery disease, then a serious decision has 12:12:08

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1 to be made whether to commit that person to a 12:12:12
2 life-long course of pharmacologic therapy. 12:12:16
3 Q. So I take it that you start off with the proposition 12:12:26
4 that each patient is an individual? 12:12:28
5 A. In clinical practice, we start with each patient, 12:12:34
6 seeing each patient individually. 12:12:36
7 Q. And then if I understood, and you had to do some 12:12:40
8 research there to track with your answer there with 12:12:42
9 what had been said, but that you have some 12:12:44
10 recommendations that if they have what you regard as 12:12:48
11 risk factors that are subject to modification, as 12:12:54
12 part of their behavior, you offer those as 12:13:00
13 recommendations before you -- before you instigate, 12:13:06
14 as you say, a life-long cholesterol-lowering plan, 12:13:10
15 i.e., diet, exercise, and so forth? 12:13:14
16 A. We think that regardless of whether people are at 12:13:22
17 high risk for coronary disease, a low-fat diet and 12:13:30
18 exercise are in their benefit for their general 12:13:32
19 health. 12:13:34

20 So we would recommend a reasonable diet 12:13:38
21 that would be an American Heart Association Step 1 12:13:42
22 diet to anybody, even if they did not have 12:13:46
23 significant coronary artery disease, because we 12:13:52
24 think it is a healthy diet. 12:13:54
25 Q. Okay. So if I understand, you would recommend this 12:14:02

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1 particular American Heart Association diet to 12:14:04
2 someone who did not have additional risk factors? 12:14:08
3 A. I would recommend it to the American population. 12:14:12
4 Q. And if persons followed that, do you think there 12:14:18
5 would be an overall reduction in the number of 12:14:20
6 people who face cardiovascular disease? 12:14:22
7 MR. EISBERG: Objection, lack of 12:14:26
8 foundation. 12:14:26
9 THE WITNESS: Well, I just think that that 12:14:28
10 calls for, again, some statistical -- I told you 12:14:32
11 already I am not a statistician and, also, I will 12:14:38
12 tell you, I am not an epidemiologist, for those 12:14:38
13 types of conclusions. 12:14:40
14 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
15 Q. Do you know of any study that has looked at that? 12:14:42
16 A. There have been, you know, studies that looked at 12:14:44
17 diet's impact on the incidence of coronary artery 12:14:52
18 disease and, yes, you know, diet can have an impact 12:14:54
19 on coronary artery disease. 12:14:58
20 Q. A positive impact in terms of reducing the risk of 12:15:00
21 coronary artery disease, right? 12:15:04

22 A. Yes, sir. 12:15:04
23 Q. And have you done some studies or accumulated data 12:15:08
24 there within your organization? 12:15:08
25 A. Particularly the type of studies that you are 12:15:14

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1 referring to, we have not done those. 12:15:16
2 Q. And what has been your success in talking with 12:15:20
3 patients who you have talked with about them 12:15:22
4 following the -- this particular version of the 12:15:24
5 American Heart Association diet? 12:15:26
6 A. It -- again, patients are varied in their approach 12:15:36
7 to -- whether it's adherence to a heart healthy diet 12:15:42
8 or stop smoking programs, so in my clinical practice 12:15:46
9 we see many patients who have had a cardiac event 12:15:52
10 that has been life-threatening. 12:15:54
11 So our incidence of -- or our success in 12:15:58
12 changing people's diets, our success in getting 12:16:02
13 people to quit smoking, is better because people 12:16:06
14 have been at the edge of the cliff, if you would, as 12:16:12
15 far as dying. 12:16:12
16 Q. So most of the patients that you actually see are 12:16:14
17 not preventive cardiology patients? 12:16:18
18 A. Most of the patients I see in the course of a day 12:16:20
19 are -- again, my preventive cardiology practice is 12:16:24
20 probably 15 percent of my total time. 12:16:28
21 Our general cardiology practice, and most 12:16:30
22 of our practice, 75 to 85 percent of our practice is 12:16:36
23 dealing with diagnosis and treating atherosclerosis, 12:16:40
24 so in that group of patients, you know, who had 12:16:44

25 suffered terribly from atherosclerosis, they are -- 12:16:52

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1 probably have a more open ear to listening to us 12:16:58

2 than a patient who is -- 12:17:02

3 Q. Symptomatic? 12:17:02

4 A. -- asymptomatic. 12:17:06

5 Q. So in respect to your primary cardiology prevention 12:17:10

6 efforts, that may mostly be comprised of your 12:17:14

7 activities in terms of these presentations and talks 12:17:16

8 and lectures and responding to public inquiries as 12:17:20

9 opposed to actually working day to day with 12:17:22

10 patients? 12:17:24

11 A. We see patients who are referred for primary 12:17:28

12 prevention who have multiple risk factors, are at 12:17:32

13 high risk. 12:17:34

14 It is our personal philosophy at the 12:17:36

15 Minneapolis Heart Institute that primary prevention 12:17:42

16 be performed in primary care clinics, unless the 12:17:48

17 patient becomes untreatable in that setting, and 12:17:54

18 then we operate a referral-based preventive 12:17:58

19 cardiology clinic, so we do not compete with our 12:18:02

20 primary care providers, we work with them. 12:18:04

21 Q. And then accept referrals from them if, in their 12:18:08

22 judgment, they have a patient who would benefit from 12:18:12

23 direct primary care consultation with a 12:18:14

24 cardiologist? 12:18:14

25 A. Who is at high risk and would need more expert care. 12:18:18

1 Q. Okay. You had a page there, do you need -- 12:18:22

2 A. I am okay. 12:18:22

3 Q. Let's talk, then -- continue to talk about these 12:18:24

4 patients and what criteria you would use to make a 12:18:30

5 decision to put a primary care prevention patient on 12:18:36

6 cholesterol-lowering drugs. 12:18:38

7 Because this is something the physician 12:18:42

8 can do. It's not a behavioral modification issue on 12:18:46

9 behalf of the patient except for the compliant -- 12:18:50

10 extent of compliance, I suppose? 12:18:52

11 A. Well, the Adult Treatment Guidelines recommend that 12:18:54

12 in patients with greater than two risk factors with 12:18:58

13 an LDL cholesterol greater than 160 is a candidate 12:19:04

14 for pharmacologic therapy. 12:19:06

15 Q. Is that what you found? 12:19:06

16 A. Yes. And so there is a component of behavior 12:19:10

17 modification to that in that if I can get that 12:19:14

18 patient to quit smoking, he may or she may go from 12:19:18

19 two to one risk factor and then potentially avoid 12:19:22

20 pharmacologic therapy. 12:19:22

21 Q. Right, or if you can get them to exercise or if you 12:19:26

22 can get them to eat right? 12:19:28

23 A. (Witness indicating in the affirmative.) 12:19:28

24 Q. How much -- go ahead. 12:19:30

25 A. No, go ahead. That's fine. 12:19:32

1 Q. How much -- let's put it -- in respect to diet and 12:19:34
2 eating, you talked about the importance of that. 12:19:38
3 How much reduction, in your experience, can a person 12:19:44
4 who follows this particular version of the American 12:19:48
5 Heart Association diet hope to achieve in terms 12:19:50
6 of -- 12:19:50
7 A. 5 to 7 percent. 12:19:52
8 Q. 5 to 7 percent. 12:19:54
9 And is that an experience that you have 12:19:56
10 gleaned from articles or is that based upon your own 12:19:58
11 personal observations in your clinical practice? 12:20:00
12 A. I would say that the literature would support that 12:20:04
13 and, also, personally, in our experience of someone 12:20:10
14 who is just initiating a type 1 diet, step 1 diet, 12:20:14
15 that -- so both, in a long-winded fashion. 12:20:20
16 Q. So in respect to patients that present with -- say 12:20:22
17 for very high cholesterol levels, that even if they 12:20:26
18 were -- you know, were reduced to 10 percent, they 12:20:30
19 would be in excess of the guidelines. 12:20:32
20 Do you then recommend the 12:20:36
21 cholesterol-lowering medication? 12:20:38
22 A. If there are one or no risk factors, the guidelines 12:20:42
23 then recommend an LDL cholesterol level of 190, so 12:20:46
24 with that, again, that's why we press very hard in 12:20:52
25 the primary prevention arena on behavior 12:20:56

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1 modification modifying other risk factors, so that 12:21:00
2 if we can keep people off a lifetime of 12:21:02

3 pharmacologic therapy, we would prefer to do that, 12:21:04
4 and so that's why we push hard on the behavioral 12:21:10
5 side, if possible. 12:21:10
6 Q. But I take it at some point in time, because of the 12:21:16
7 levels of cholesterols, in spite of the behavior 12:21:20
8 counseling, and maybe good results from that, you 12:21:22
9 still have to put primary prevention patients on 12:21:26
10 those medications? 12:21:26
11 A. There are high-risk primary prevention patients that 12:21:30
12 are then candidates for pharmacologic therapy. 12:21:32
13 Q. In respect to these guidelines and these levels and 12:21:36
14 the one or two risk factors, whose guidelines are 12:21:40
15 these that you are following? 12:21:42
16 A. These are the Adult Treatment Guidelines of the 12:21:44
17 National Cholesterol Education Committee. 12:21:46
18 Q. Have you ever served on that? 12:21:48
19 A. No, sir. 12:21:48
20 Q. Anybody from your particular organization or group? 12:21:52
21 A. No, sir. 12:21:52
22 Q. You said you were not a statistician. Are you an 12:21:58
23 expert in medical economics in respect to health 12:22:00
24 care?
25 A. I am not. 12:22:02

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1 Q. You don't have a particular degree or major in 12:22:04
2 medical economics? 12:22:06
3 A. Absolutely not. 12:22:08
4 Q. You were an English major at -- in your 12:22:10
5 undergraduate level? 12:22:12

6 A. Yes, sir. 12:22:34
7 (A discussion was held off the
8 record.) 12:22:48
9 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
10 Q. Have there also, in recent years, been improved 12:22:50
11 drugs and medications for the control of 12:22:52
12 hypertension? 12:22:52
13 A. There have been more drugs for the control of 12:23:00
14 hypertension. I think that there are many drugs 12:23:08
15 that treat hypertension, and it would depend partly 12:23:12
16 on your definition of "recent" and partly on your 12:23:16
17 definition of what good control of hypertension is. 12:23:18
18 Q. All right. Well, on "recent" I will define and say 12:23:22
19 the last three years. 12:23:24
20 A. There has been one new agent in the last three years 12:23:28
21 for the treatment of hypertension. 12:23:30
22 Q. And what is that? 12:23:32
23 A. Well, it's now a class of agents called the ACE 12:23:38
24 blocking agents. The first agent of that class on 12:23:44
25 the market is called Losartan, and there is now a 12:23:48

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1 second agent. 12:23:48
2 Q. Have you done any research into risk factors of 12:24:02
3 hypertension? 12:24:04
4 A. Could you define that for me? 12:24:08
5 Q. Okay. Have you done any research into the nature or 12:24:12
6 associated factors that may give rise to 12:24:20
7 hypertension? 12:24:22

8 A. I guess that when you look at -- you are going to 12:24:26
9 have to go one better, as far as -- I have not done 12:24:32
10 the basic -- what you -- what you are asking me is 12:24:36
11 have I done -- got into the pathophysiology of 12:24:44
12 hypertension, researching the pathophysiology of 12:24:48
13 hypertension, which I have not. 12:24:48
14 Q. Okay. Have you done research in respect to 12:24:52
15 atherosclerotic changes at a level other than as a 12:25:02
16 practicing clinician? 12:25:02
17 A. No, sir. 12:25:02
18 Q. When you -- going back to the medical negligence 12:25:18
19 trial at which you were involved, I think, as a 12:25:22
20 treating physician, I asked about a standard of care 12:25:24
21 question and you answered that, but were there any 12:25:28
22 issues in that case that you testified about that 12:25:30
23 related to causation? 12:25:32
24 A. No, sir. 12:25:32
25 Q. I take it from what you told us you try to keep up 12:25:42

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1 to date on heart research with this cardiovascular 12:25:48
2 disease? 12:25:48
3 A. Yes, sir. 12:25:48
4 Q. And there are some articles, and we may have sent 12:25:52
5 you some of these that -- where investigation is 12:25:56
6 being done of some additional conditions which 12:26:00
7 people think might be risk factors or causative in 12:26:06
8 relationship to cardiovascular disease. 12:26:10
9 Are there any of those that stand out in 12:26:12
10 your mind that you are following? 12:26:14

11 A. I have not seen those articles. 12:26:16
12 Q. Okay. Have you noticed that people that present to 12:26:34
13 you for either -- for primary care have a number of 12:26:36
14 different risk factors as opposed to simply having 12:26:40
15 one? 12:26:40
16 A. Patients do not present to us for primary care. We 12:26:48
17 have a consultative cardiology practice, therefore 12:26:52
18 it's a referral practice, so people go to their 12:26:54
19 primary care physicians for primary care. 12:26:58
20 The people that we see in -- for 12:27:02
21 primary -- prevention are a referral population. 12:27:08
22 Q. And as you say, they are the ones that might have 12:27:12
23 already been diagnosed or at least assessed as 12:27:16
24 having a high risk for cardiovascular disease? 12:27:20
25 A. Yes, sir. 12:27:20

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1 Q. So you see a -- obviously, a different population 12:27:22
2 than would generally be seen by the typical 12:27:26
3 internist or family care provider? 12:27:28
4 A. Yes, sir. 12:27:28
5 Q. Excuse me. 12:27:32
6 A. Can we take a two-minute break? 12:27:36
7 Q. Sure. 12:27:36
8 (A recess was taken.) 12:36:52
9 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
10 Q. We have taken a little break. We talked earlier 12:36:52
11 about some risk factors for cardiovascular disease, 12:36:58
12 and you have mentioned these, identified some of 12:37:02

13 them, and we have talked about them, both in the 12:37:06
14 context of primary prevention and secondary 12:37:08
15 prevention. 12:37:08
16 And I think you know which ones you have 12:37:10
17 talked about to date, the hypertension, the 12:37:16
18 diabetes, the smoking, obesity, lack of exercise, 12:37:20
19 high cholesterol. 12:37:28
20 Any others that you have mentioned that I 12:37:30
21 didn't name? 12:37:30
22 A. I don't know. 12:37:32
23 Q. Okay. Well, let me ask you, then, against that 12:37:36
24 context, are there any other risk factors that you 12:37:40
25 have observed -- we talked about this truncated body 12:37:42

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1 shape. 12:37:44
2 Have you -- in your personal experience, 12:37:46
3 other than the ones that you have talked about here 12:37:48
4 and I just briefly recited, have you seen a pattern 12:37:50
5 of any other kind of risk factors that have brought 12:37:54
6 patients to you on a referral from a primary care 12:37:58
7 physician? 12:37:58
8 A. No. 12:38:04
9 Q. Now, have you seen patients that have come to you 12:38:08
10 because they have some symptoms from cardiovascular 12:38:12
11 disease that when you take a history and do a 12:38:16
12 physical, they don't appear to have any particular 12:38:18
13 risk factors? 12:38:20
14 A. Yes. I mean, of the ones that we spoke about. 12:38:26
15 Q. Right. Right. Are there other risk factors? 12:38:30

16 A. There are. 12:38:30
17 Q. Are there -- and you think that there are risk 12:38:32
18 factors that are probably undiscovered to date, but 12:38:36
19 based upon further research will, at some point in 12:38:40
20 time, be identified? 12:38:40
21 A. There are rare cases. I am sending a woman to the 12:38:46
22 operating room tomorrow who has radiation-induced 12:38:50
23 coronary artery disease who had Hodgkin's disease 26 12:38:54
24 years ago who had radiation in Russia and now, from 12:39:02
25 the injury of radiation to her coronary arteries, 12:39:06

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1 has developed a very atypical type of coronary 12:39:12
2 artery disease. That is a rare but known entity 12:39:18
3 that can cause coronary artery disease. 12:39:22
4 For that patient that is the causative 12:39:24
5 agent for coronary artery disease. She has none of 12:39:26
6 the other causative agents that we spoke about, so 12:39:30
7 there are other causative agents. 12:39:32
8 Q. And have you treated patients who, based upon your 12:39:38
9 history and physical, have no other risk factors and 12:39:44
10 you go ahead and treat them, regardless of whether 12:39:48
11 or not you know what the risk factors are? 12:39:52
12 MR. EISBERG: Objection, vague. 12:39:54
13 THE WITNESS: Yeah, can you define that? 12:39:56
14 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
15 Q. That was not -- let me just withdraw that question. 12:39:58
16 Have you had situations where a patient 12:40:02
17 has come in and you have done a history and a 12:40:06

18 physical and they have symptomatic disease but you 12:40:08
19 are absolutely unable to detect any risk factor in 12:40:12
20 respect to their condition? 12:40:14
21 A. Of the 25,000 plus patient visits that we have a 12:40:24
22 year, a couple of times a year we will come on to a 12:40:30
23 patient that does not appear to have any of the, 12:40:36
24 quote unquote, "standard causative agents" that we 12:40:40
25 have discussed earlier. 12:40:42

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1 And -- but usually it is not a mystery why 12:40:48
2 patients are -- have developed their coronary artery 12:40:52
3 disease.
4 Q. Let's talk about this report which was earlier 12:40:56
5 marked as an exhibit, your report dated June of this 12:41:00
6 year. 12:41:00
7 And I covered at least some of this in our 12:41:10
8 other questions, and I don't want to unduly go back 12:41:12
9 through things that you have already indicated, nor 12:41:16
10 do I -- as you might imagine for your time and for 12:41:18
11 the record, I don't want to necessarily ask you to 12:41:22
12 simply read what's in this report because that would 12:41:26
13 defeat the whole purpose of the report. Okay? 12:41:30
14 A. Yes. 12:41:30
15 Q. So you say in the -- and I need to ask you another 12:41:34
16 question. Was this prepared -- I asked you earlier 12:41:38
17 whether you looked at these articles, but was this 12:41:40
18 prepared based upon some of the material that you 12:41:42
19 use in the presentations to physicians or otherwise 12:41:46
20 as part of your ongoing prevention efforts? 12:41:50

21 A. I think this is the synthesis of medical school, 12:41:58
22 residency, fellowship, eight and a half years of 12:42:02
23 practice. I don't think I can pull out one 12:42:04
24 particular place or another that most of this report 12:42:08
25 or portions of this report came from. 12:42:12

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1 Q. But you did prepare it for the function of a report 12:42:22
2 to cover what testimony you are going to offer at 12:42:24
3 trial to the jury? 12:42:24
4 A. Yes. 12:42:26
5 Q. It was not prepared for a presentation to a 12:42:28
6 physician group or something like that? 12:42:30
7 A. No. 12:42:30
8 Q. Now, you indicate there in your opening paragraph, 12:42:50
9 the middle, "My testimony in this document will 12:42:54
10 focus on the clinical course after the onset of 12:42:56
11 symptomatic atherosclerosis, focusing on coronary 12:43:00
12 artery disease, but also discussing stroke and 12:43:04
13 peripheral vascular disease," right? 12:43:06
14 A. Yes, sir. 12:43:06
15 Q. And that is the -- that underlines what your intent 12:43:12
16 is in terms of the issues that you are going to 12:43:16
17 discuss with this jury at trial? 12:43:18
18 A. Yes, sir, as well as the statement after and the 12:43:30
19 concluding statements -- 12:43:32
20 Q. About the medical economics? 12:43:32
21 A. About the charges of the plaintiffs in our 12:43:44
22 experience and in our experience with the physicians 12:43:48

23 of a wide primary care network that we have around 12:43:52
24 the state of Minnesota. 12:43:54
25 Q. Let's talk a little bit about that since you bring 12:43:56

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1 that up, and that is outlined there on the 12:43:58
2 concluding page, page 8 of your report that's been 12:44:02
3 marked as an exhibit, 1751? 2? 12:44:10
4 A. 2. 12:44:12
5 Q. 1752. The two paragraphs you are talking about are 12:44:14
6 the last two paragraphs of your report, right? 12:44:18
7 A. Yes, sir. 12:44:20
8 Q. Okay. Now, did you, prior to preparing this, 12:44:26
9 consult with people there in your organization 12:44:28
10 concerning amounts billed for certain disease 12:44:32
11 categories? 12:44:32
12 A. Could I look at that question again, please. 12:44:36
13 (Screen read.)
14 THE WITNESS: Yeah, our organization, we 12:44:48
15 have meetings from time to time with our billing 12:44:58
16 people to let us know the reasonable and customary 12:45:06
17 charges for certain procedures. Also, the cost of 12:45:10
18 our care for patients. 12:45:12
19 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
20 Q. So I think my question was did you consult with 12:45:20
21 these people in terms of preparing this document? 12:45:22
22 A. No, sir. 12:45:22
23 Q. Did you have in front of you any data that 12:45:28
24 consisted, in all or part, of a compilation of 12:45:32
25 whatever charges your group made for its medical 12:45:34

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1 services to patients? 12:45:36

2 A. No, sir. 12:45:38

3 Q. Did you look at any document that might purport to 12:45:44

4 have a standardized list of customary and reasonable 12:45:48

5 charges for certain procedures in the state of 12:45:52

6 Minnesota or elsewhere? 12:45:52

7 A. We review those, as I stated earlier, with our 12:46:00

8 business office intermittently. 12:46:04

9 Q. My question was -- if I didn't make it clear, was in 12:46:08

10 conjunction with this report, did you look at any 12:46:12

11 recital of any customary and reasonable charges for 12:46:16

12 physician care for certain illnesses or procedures 12:46:20

13 in the state of Minnesota or elsewhere? 12:46:22

14 A. Well, I guess it's -- for the direct preparation of 12:46:32

15 this, the answer would be strictly no, but as I said 12:46:36

16 previously, we have kind of -- especially in this 12:46:42

17 medical environment, are aware of the costs of our 12:46:48

18 treatments. 12:46:48

19 Q. So when was the last time you had an intermittent 12:47:00

20 meeting with your business people? 12:47:02

21 A. We had a group combination documentation and billing 12:47:14

22 meeting within the past three months. 12:47:16

23 Q. Do you charge different payers different amounts of 12:47:20

24 money for the same procedures? 12:47:22

25 A. No, sir. 12:47:22

1 Q. So what you charge or bill a medical insurer is the 12:47:28
2 same -- such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the 12:47:32
3 same as you would charge if you were billing another 12:47:34
4 third-party payer? 12:47:36
5 A. Yes. 12:47:38
6 Q. Have you negotiated -- or your group negotiated any 12:47:44
7 arrangements with HMOs or PPOs in respect to 12:47:52
8 rendering patient care to their patient populations? 12:47:54
9 A. We do have a very small portion of our business that 12:48:00
10 is what we call package pricing for particular 12:48:06
11 procedures that has been negotiated so that there 12:48:12
12 can be some predictability of the procedure pricing. 12:48:14
13 Q. I think you are going to have to explain that a 12:48:24
14 little bit more. How does this achieve 12:48:26
15 predictability? 12:48:28
16 A. Say three-year -- and I was not involved in the 12:48:34
17 exact specifics of this, but a payer will then know 12:48:40
18 if the patient comes to the Minneapolis Heart 12:48:42
19 Institute for a bypass it is going to cost them this 12:48:48
20 many dollars, regardless of whether the patient 12:48:50
21 stays three days or ten days, and so there is what 12:48:54
22 we call a package price for that procedure. 12:48:58
23 Q. And that's offered to HMOs and PPOs? 12:49:02
24 A. It has been negotiated with a -- I think -- I am 12:49:08
25 unaware of the payers, but two -- I think two 12:49:10

1 separate payers in the state of Minnesota. 12:49:14

2 Q. Is one of those payers Blue Cross and Blue Shield of 12:49:16
3 Minnesota? 12:49:16
4 A. I am not sure. 12:49:18
5 Q. Is it possible that they are billed on this package 12:49:24
6 price basis? 12:49:26
7 A. The fact that they are a payer from the state of 12:49:28
8 Minnesota, it is possible. 12:49:30
9 Q. So you have in your memory bank now what the package 12:49:36
10 prices are for certain procedures? 12:49:38
11 A. I do not. 12:49:38
12 Q. And you have not consulted without -- in preparation 12:49:42
13 for this report? 12:49:44
14 A. No, sir. 12:49:44
15 Q. Would the packaged price, say, for a bypass surgery 12:49:46
16 doctor's care be different than for an entity that 12:49:54
17 did not require a package price? In other words, 12:49:58
18 just pay by the day or the number of visits and so 12:50:00
19 forth?
20 A. The reason for doing package pricing is from a 12:50:06
21 payer's standpoint and from a provider's standpoint, 12:50:12
22 that there is some predictability in what the costs 12:50:18
23 will be. 12:50:20
24 It is that that I think most people look 12:50:26
25 for in doing those type of arrangements. 12:50:28

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1 Q. Okay. But you don't have those figures here today? 12:50:34
2 A. I do not. 12:50:34
3 Q. Do you know whether that package price would be the 12:50:40

4 price negotiated with the state of Minnesota? 12:50:42
5 A. I do not. 12:50:44
6 Q. And do you know whether the packaged price 12:50:50
7 negotiated with these third-party payers that you 12:50:56
8 could not identify, at least today, would be higher 12:50:58
9 or lower than for this patient care rendered to 12:51:02
10 persons that had another payer? 12:51:04
11 A. I do not. 12:51:04
12 Q. Are you on -- is there a committee within your 12:51:20
13 organization -- you said that there were a number of 12:51:26
14 cardiologists that belong to your particular 12:51:28
15 organization. 12:51:28
16 Is there a particular committee within 12:51:30
17 that group that deals with billings and finances and 12:51:36
18 reimbursements? 12:51:38
19 A. The physicians are aware of that. We generally try 12:51:42
20 and have -- we generally have business people do the 12:51:56
21 business end of the business and the physicians try 12:51:58
22 and stick to practicing medicine. 12:52:02
23 Q. Okay. So it would be the business people who would 12:52:04
24 be up to date on the costs billed for these various 12:52:08
25 procedures by your medical group to the state of 12:52:10

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1 Minnesota or Blue Cross and Blue Shield? 12:52:12
2 A. Yes. 12:52:14
3 Q. Is that true? 12:52:16
4 A. The exact costs in -- say for this year would be -- 12:52:20
5 the business people would be aware of. I have given 12:52:28
6 ranges in my testimony of the approximate costs. 12:52:30

7 Q. For example, you cite or use in the next to last 12:52:44
8 paragraph of your report a range of a few thousand 12:52:46
9 dollars to greater than \$44,000 for outpatient 12:52:50
10 costs? 12:52:50
11 A. Yes, sir. 12:52:52
12 Q. Do you have any way today to quantify that down to 12:52:54
13 certain procedures or certain costs for certain 12:52:56
14 procedures? 12:52:58
15 A. I do not have those with me today. 12:53:00
16 Q. And you did -- do you, in your practice, see 12:53:10
17 Medicaid patients? 12:53:14
18 A. Yes, sir. 12:53:14
19 Q. What percent of the patient -- population patients 12:53:20
20 that you see in, say, a given year are Medicaid 12:53:24
21 patients? 12:53:24
22 A. I am not aware of the number. 12:53:26
23 Q. Who -- the business people there in your group would 12:53:32
24 be aware of that, I suppose? 12:53:34
25 A. Yes. 12:53:34

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1 Q. Could you give us, as you did in this report, a 12:53:38
2 ballpark range? 12:53:38
3 A. For -- 12:53:40
4 Q. Medicaid patients. 12:53:42
5 MR. EISBERG: Ballpark range as to what, 12:53:44
6 number? 12:53:46
7 MR. SHEPPARD: Number of -- percent of 12:53:46
8 practice devoted to Medicaid patients. 12:53:50

9 MR. EISBERG: Objection, asked and 12:53:52
10 answered. 12:53:52
11 THE WITNESS: I can't. 12:54:00
12 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
13 Q. Okay. Do you have some patients whose medical bills 12:54:04
14 are paid, in all or in part, by Minnesota Blue Cross 12:54:08
15 and Blue Shield?
16 A. Yes. 12:54:10
17 Q. Can you tell us today what percent of the patients 12:54:12
18 that you see in an average year have Blue Cross and 12:54:16
19 Blue Shield as the payer for all or part of their 12:54:22
20 medical bills? 12:54:22
21 A. I cannot. 12:54:26
22 Q. Do you have the figures of how much each year your 12:54:30
23 group bills Medicaid for the care of Medicaid 12:54:32
24 patients? 12:54:32
25 A. I do not. 12:54:34

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1 Q. Are you familiar with the fee structure, medical 12:54:38
2 reimbursement fee structure, for that organization, 12:54:42
3 the Medicaid program? 12:54:42
4 A. Only in the most general aspects. 12:54:46
5 Q. Has your group ever done any particular studies 12:54:50
6 concerning socioeconomic factors as related to 12:54:56
7 disease, cardiovascular disease or heart disease or 12:55:02
8 peripheral vascular disease or stroke? 12:55:04
9 A. We have not. 12:55:06
10 Q. Does your practice, based upon your conversations 12:55:08
11 with the business people, keep any kind of 12:55:10

12	statistics that deal with those issues?	12:55:12
13	A. We do not.	12:55:14
14	Q. Let's talk a little bit about page 7 of your	12:55:48
15	report. I don't know that we talked about stroke.	12:55:52
16	I take it, as a cardiologist, you see	12:55:58
17	stroke patients?	12:56:00
18	A. We do see stroke patients.	12:56:02
19	Q. You say in their, quote -- in your report on page 7,	12:56:06
20	you say "we do." I assume you do?	12:56:08
21	A. Yes.	12:56:10
22	Q. Okay. And you say there on page 7 of Exhibit --	12:56:14
23	your report, which is Exhibit 1752, you state,	12:56:18
24	quote, "While the mechanisms of stroke are	12:56:20
25	multi-factorial, thrombosis and embolization of clot	12:56:26

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1	are the major culprit in most strokes," right?	12:56:30
2	A. Yes.	12:56:30
3	Q. Would it be also true that cardiovascular disease is	12:56:34
4	multi-factorial?	12:56:36
5	A. Yes, sir.	12:56:36
6	Q. Now, what percentage of the patients do you think	12:56:40
7	you see in a year are stroke patients?	12:56:42
8	A. A small percentage.	12:56:44
9	Q. Okay. When you were in Colorado were you involved	12:56:58
10	with stroke patients?	12:57:00
11	A. Yes.	12:57:00
12	Q. At a higher percentage level than you are now?	12:57:06
13	A. I can't -- I can't give you a good answer on that.	12:57:12

14 Q. Do you, in your present practice, go to see stroke 12:57:16
15 patients in nursing homes? 12:57:18
16 A. I do not. 12:57:18
17 Q. Have you had any involvement in -- with patients in 12:57:24
18 nursing homes? 12:57:24
19 A. Historically, yes. 12:57:28
20 Q. In Colorado? 12:57:28
21 A. In Colorado and my training at Hennepin Medical 12:57:34
22 Center. 12:57:36
23 Q. And how did that come to be? 12:57:36
24 A. As part of rotations, we would visit nursing homes 12:57:42
25 and see nursing home patients. 12:57:44

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1 Q. And since you have gone into cardiology practice 12:57:52
2 here with your present group you don't render any 12:57:56
3 care at these different sites at nursing homes? 12:58:00
4 A. Not on-site to nursing homes. Patients are usually 12:58:04
5 brought to us. 12:58:04
6 Q. All right. And then you talk in your report about 12:58:08
7 peripheral vascular disease. 12:58:10
8 A. Yes, sir. 12:58:12
9 Q. Do you see patients that have that condition? 12:58:16
10 A. Yes, sir. 12:58:18
11 Q. Do you have an idea of what percent of the patients 12:58:24
12 that you see, say, in a year have that condition? 12:58:28
13 A. There are -- I can't give you an exact percentage. 12:58:40
14 It's a question -- I would have to define the 12:58:42
15 question as whether they are being referred for 12:58:46
16 peripheral vascular disease or they have concomitant 12:58:50

17 peripheral vascular disease with their coronary 12:59:02
18 artery disease.
19 Q. Okay. I take it if you break it down, then, how 12:59:08
20 many patients percentage-wise in an average year do 12:59:10
21 you see that have peripheral vascular disease but 12:59:12
22 not cardiovascular disease that you are called upon 12:59:20
23 to manage? 12:59:20
24 A. Probably it is a rule, and one -- most often we are 12:59:30
25 asked to see peripheral vascular disease patients 12:59:32

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1 because patients don't die of peripheral vascular 12:59:36
2 disease, but patients who have had symptomatic 12:59:38
3 peripheral vascular disease who are about to undergo 12:59:40
4 procedures aren't at risk from the procedures from 12:59:46
5 the angioplasty or operation that they are about to 12:59:50
6 get, their biggest risk is having a heart attack 12:59:52
7 around the time of the procedure. 12:59:54
8 So that is why a cardiologist is often 12:59:56
9 asked to see those patients. And there is a high 13:00:00
10 likelihood of them having coronary artery disease; 13:00:04
11 it's a question of whether the coronary artery 13:00:06
12 disease puts them at undue risk for whatever 13:00:10
13 peripheral vascular procedure they are about to have 13:00:14
14 done, so that's why we are most often asked to see 13:00:16
15 those patients. 13:00:16
16 Q. So in this respect, you would be making a 13:00:18
17 preoperative assessment about their ability to 13:00:22
18 withstand and survive the procedure? 13:00:26

19 A. Exactly. 13:00:26
20 Q. But you wouldn't be involved in long-term management 13:00:28
21 of that condition? 13:00:28
22 A. We are from the standpoint of risk factor 13:00:32
23 interventions on our preventative side and on the 13:00:38
24 risk factors that oftentimes bring people to present 13:00:46
25 with symptomatic peripheral vascular disease also 13:00:50

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1 has led them to have blockages, also, in their 13:00:52
2 coronary arteries. 13:00:54
3 Q. Is there a relationship to cholesterol levels in 13:00:58
4 peripheral vascular disease? 13:01:00
5 A. It's not as strong as smoking and diabetes are to 13:01:08
6 coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular 13:01:08
7 disease. 13:01:10
8 Smoking and diabetes are the two 13:01:12
9 predominant risk factors in patients with peripheral 13:01:16
10 vascular disease. 13:01:18
11 Q. How about hypertension as a risk factor? 13:01:20
12 A. For -- 13:01:22
13 Q. Peripheral vascular disease. 13:01:24
14 A. Again, it is not as strong a risk factor or 13:01:30
15 causative agent in peripheral vascular disease as 13:01:38
16 smoking and diabetes. 13:01:38
17 Q. How about alcohol intake, is that a risk factor? 13:01:42
18 A. In certain studies alcohol intake at one to two 13:01:50
19 drinks a day is beneficial. At higher levels it has 13:01:54
20 been shown to be somewhat detrimental. Again, more 13:01:58
21 so for coronary artery disease than peripheral 13:02:02

24 and you have talked about, to some limited degree, 14:00:16
25 the relationships and places of business that -- 14:00:24

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1 seeing patients outside Minneapolis? 14:00:26
2 A. Yes. 14:00:28
3 Q. Are those billings for those services made out of 14:00:32
4 the central office here? 14:00:34
5 A. Yes. 14:00:34
6 Q. Do you know whether or not there is any 14:00:38
7 differentiation in terms of a dollar amount for a 14:00:40
8 given service as to whether it's rendered in one of 14:00:44
9 these towns, these outreach towns, or in 14:00:48
10 Minneapolis? 14:00:48
11 A. I don't know for certain, but I don't believe so. 14:00:52
12 Q. But as far as your personal knowledge, you don't 14:00:54
13 know?
14 A. I don't know. 14:00:56
15 Q. Okay. Now, in respect to these medical costs and 14:01:06
16 the generalized figures that are in your report, it 14:01:08
17 would be true that the medical costs for the given 14:01:12
18 procedures would be the same whether the patient had 14:01:18
19 a risk factor of smoking or not? 14:01:24
20 A. For which procedures are we talking about? 14:01:30
21 Q. The procedures that you do as part of your personal 14:01:34
22 practice. 14:01:34
23 A. It would depend on which procedure, at which 14:01:40
24 particular time, which patient -- I don't think that 14:01:44
25 that can be generalized to smokers versus nonsmokers 14:01:50

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1 as opposed to people who had -- let's just leave 14:01:54
2 it -- I don't think it could be said that smokers or 14:01:56
3 nonsmokers cost the same. 14:01:58
4 Q. Can you break down your answer any more? 14:02:02
5 A. The -- 14:02:06
6 Q. Are there certain procedures you think might have a 14:02:08
7 higher or lower cost because the person is a smoker? 14:02:10
8 A. As far as their risk coming to the procedure, if a 14:02:18
9 patient, a given patient, who has the additional 14:02:24
10 causative agent of smoking on top of high 14:02:26
11 cholesterol, that patient, as opposed to presenting 14:02:32
12 with single vessel coronary disease, may have 14:02:36
13 multiple vessel coronary disease. 14:02:38
14 That patient may then require a bypass 14:02:40
15 surgery because they were a smoker, where if they -- 14:02:44
16 their brother or sister, who was not a smoker, may 14:02:48
17 avoid a procedure altogether or may get an 14:02:54
18 angioplasty. 14:02:56
19 So I don't think it can be generalized by 14:03:02
20 saying that smoking -- procedures on smokers versus 14:03:04
21 nonsmokers cost the same. 14:03:06
22 Q. Do you keep any statistics in your office on those 14:03:08
23 cost breakdowns that you know about? 14:03:10
24 A. We do not. 14:03:12
25 Q. Do you do bypass surgeries or participate in them? 14:03:16

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1 A. We -- cardiologists generally do not do or 14:03:20
2 participate in bypass surgeries, the actual surgery. 14:03:24
3 Q. Now, we were talking before the break about your 14:03:36
4 report and the part of the report that was talking 14:03:40
5 about strokes, right? Remember that conversation? 14:03:50
6 We talked briefly about that. 14:03:52
7 A. Oh, yes. 14:03:52
8 Q. I want to follow up and ask you whether there are 14:03:56
9 strokes that you see in your experience that are not 14:04:00
10 related to a clot formation. 14:04:06
11 A. There are strokes that are called hemorrhagic 14:04:10
12 strokes where a blood vessel in the head that 14:04:16
13 bursts, that there is a bleeding into the brain. 14:04:20
14 Q. Do you care for patients that have those conditions? 14:04:34
15 A. We do. 14:04:36
16 Q. Okay. Are those sometimes related to genetic 14:04:40
17 factors, particularly configurations of parts of the 14:04:44
18 body? 14:04:46
19 A. Yes. 14:04:46
20 Q. Are there other kinds of strokes, other than the 14:04:48
21 hemorrhagic, that do not have a clot formation? 14:04:54
22 A. There is a particular type of stroke called the 14:05:00
23 Lacunar infarct that is particularly related to 14:05:04
24 hypertension. 14:05:08
25 Q. Can you see that type of stroke in your practice? 14:05:14

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1 A. The incidence of that type of stroke, in hemorrhagic 14:05:18
2 stroke, have come down with the treatment of 14:05:20

5 that was made available to me for Dr. Hurt and 14:06:54
6 Dr. Samet. 14:06:56
7 Q. Now, have you reviewed those reports and what 14:07:00
8 appears to be a deposition transcript? I can't 14:07:04
9 quite tell from here. That's what it looks like 14:07:06
10 from here. 14:07:08
11 MR. EISBERG: That's not a deposition. 14:07:10
12 MR. SHEPPARD: That's not? 14:07:10
13 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
14 Q. Let me withdraw it and go about it this way: In 14:07:14
15 reference to the matters that you just talked about 14:07:16
16 that you have reviewed, did you review those prior 14:07:18
17 to June 2nd, 1997, when you signed off on your 14:07:22
18 report marked as Exhibit 1752? 14:07:24
19 A. No, sir. 14:07:26
20 Q. So you reviewed them between that time and now? 14:07:30
21 A. Yes, sir. 14:07:30
22 Q. In respect to those statements, you had indicated 14:07:38
23 earlier you had one discussion with the oncologist, 14:07:40
24 I believe. 14:07:40
25 A. Uh-huh. 14:07:42

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1 Q. Have you had any oral discussions with any of those 14:07:44
2 other people mentioned there? 14:07:44
3 A. No, sir. 14:07:46
4 Q. Okay. But in respect to whatever they had to say or 14:07:54
5 not say, that could have no impact upon what you had 14:07:58
6 prepared as your witness report dated June because 14:08:00
7 you didn't have them at that time? 14:08:02

8 A. No, sir. 14:08:02
9 Q. Okay. Are there doctors that are within your group 14:08:18
10 that are not cardiologists? 14:08:20
11 A. We have two physicians in our group who are 14:08:24
12 internists who have taken additional training in 14:08:26
13 cardiology who are not board certified but who do 14:08:32
14 specialized work within our practice. 14:08:48
15 I might say that the Minneapolis Heart 14:08:50
16 Institute is a confederate of groups that are three 14:08:52
17 cardiovascular surgery groups, cardiac 14:08:56
18 anesthesiologists and interventional radiologists, 14:09:00
19 so it depends upon how you define our group, is my 14:09:02
20 answer. 14:09:02
21 Q. So I was narrowly defining it to those doctors that 14:09:06
22 you practice with cardiology or internal medicine 14:09:08
23 but that focus on cardiology. 14:09:10
24 But you do have relationships with doctors 14:09:14
25 who provide other services to patients? 14:09:16

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1 A. Yes. 14:09:16
2 Q. Now, are that -- just one question on that. Is that 14:09:24
3 an entity that is linked for billing purposes or do 14:09:28
4 the different anesthesiologists, for example, bill 14:09:32
5 separately from the cardiologists/interns? 14:09:34
6 A. The usual practice is that they all -- everybody 14:09:36
7 bills separately. The Minneapolis Heart Institute 14:09:42
8 is, basically, a marketing organization for the 14:09:44
9 entities. 14:09:46

10 Q. Now, in respect to your statement in the billing 14:10:04
11 discussion there on the cost of services, do you 14:10:08
12 have any particular familiarity with fees paid by 14:10:14
13 the State of Minnesota for medical care in other 14:10:16
14 areas other than where you practice? 14:10:20
15 A. No, sir. 14:10:20
16 Q. Now, in respect to your report, now, in that report, 14:10:50
17 if I understand it, I want to make sure that we do 14:10:52
18 start on page 2 of the document, and that identifies 14:11:00
19 yourself and then you indicate that, quote, your -- 14:11:06
20 "This testimony will focus primarily on the 14:11:08
21 clinical presentation of coronary artery disease and 14:11:12
22 its subsequent course." 14:11:14
23 Is that -- 14:11:16
24 A. Where are you? 14:11:16
25 Q. Last paragraph on page 2. 14:11:18

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1 A. Okay. 14:11:18
2 Q. Right? 14:11:20
3 A. Yes. 14:11:20
4 Q. And that is your intent? 14:11:22
5 A. Yes, sir. 14:11:22
6 Q. Okay. And then you go on in the report and you talk 14:11:26
7 about coronary artery disease, right, and you cover 14:11:32
8 that on pages 3 through halfway down page 7; is that 14:11:46
9 right? 14:11:46
10 A. Yes, sir. 14:11:48
11 Q. So by reviewing -- would it be true by reviewing the 14:11:52
12 content of those pages, we would then know the 14:11:56

13 testimony you are prepared to render at trial in 14:12:00
14 respect to coronary artery disease? 14:12:02
15 A. I -- on the bottom of page 2, the last sentence 14:12:08
16 reads "The clinical presentations presented are not 14:12:18
17 all-inclusive, but represent common clinical 14:12:22
18 scenarios." 14:12:24
19 So if questions will come up about other 14:12:26
20 scenarios that would be related to presentations of 14:12:32
21 coronary artery disease, I would be prepared to 14:12:36
22 discuss those, also. 14:12:36
23 Q. Okay. Well, since this is our opportunity to, you 14:12:38
24 know, investigate those things and know what topics 14:12:42
25 and content that you are going to provide at trial, 14:12:44

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1 give us some examples of what that might be, if you 14:12:48
2 can. 14:12:48
3 A. Potentially, arrhythmia treatment not related to 14:13:00
4 sudden cardiac death. Are you waiting? Do you want 14:13:34
5 more? 14:13:34
6 Q. Yeah, I am waiting. I don't necessarily want more 14:13:36
7 or not want more, I just want to have you answer 14:13:38
8 that question. You gave that as an illustration. 14:13:40
9 A. The -- that was an illustration. Again, I guess 14:13:48
10 there are many facets of the, you know, potential 14:13:54
11 for presentation of coronary artery disease that we 14:13:58
12 could spend the rest of -- again, the rest of the 14:14:00
13 day talking about, but I try to stick to the large 14:14:06
14 ones. 14:14:08

15 There are some categories under those such 14:14:12
16 as, you know, non-sustained ventricular tachycardia, 14:14:20
17 other rhythm management -- ventricular septal 14:14:28
18 defects post-infarction, left ventricular rupture, 14:14:34
19 complications from any of the procedures listed that 14:14:40
20 could conceivably be covered. 14:14:46
21 There is an incidence of stroke 14:14:48
22 post-bypass surgery that is not listed here, but if 14:14:54
23 somebody wanted to ask me about that, that is part 14:15:00
24 of the clinical practice of cardiology that we would 14:15:06
25 hope not to but expect at times to encounter. 14:15:10

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1 Q. Okay. So let me try to summarize that. 14:15:16
2 You have put in your report a description 14:15:22
3 of the clinical matters that you intended to testify 14:15:24
4 at trial that you most regularly see. There could 14:15:28
5 be others that you occasionally see that you would 14:15:32
6 be prepared to talk about, and you have generated in 14:15:36
7 the last few moments a listing of those? 14:15:38
8 A. Yes, sir. 14:15:38
9 Q. Is that a reasonable statement? 14:15:40
10 A. That's reasonable. 14:15:40
11 Q. So by review of this exhibit, 1752, we can tell, as 14:15:48
12 lawyers for the defense side, what you are going to 14:15:52
13 cover at trial, right? 14:15:54
14 A. With those caveats. 14:15:56
15 Q. With the caveats related to arrhythmias and 14:16:00
16 complications and that type of thing? 14:16:02
17 A. And other -- yes. 14:16:04

18 Q. But as far as subject areas we are concerned, you 14:16:08
19 are locked in on this report? 14:16:10
20 A. This is what we would focus on as the major 14:16:14
21 presentations of coronary artery disease. And 14:16:20
22 again, there are presentations that can arise that 14:16:24
23 may not be covered here. 14:16:24
24 Q. Right. And you have talked about those, some of 14:16:28
25 those, anyway, I am sure there is rare things that 14:16:30

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1 you see in your practice, but my point of it is you 14:16:32
2 have in this report, these things you mentioned, 14:16:34
3 covered what you are going to cover in your 14:16:36
4 testimony at trial? 14:16:38
5 A. For the most part, these would represent the most 14:16:44
6 common scenarios seen in the practice of clinical 14:16:46
7 cardiology. 14:16:48
8 Q. So let me get an answer to my question because this 14:16:52
9 is an important one. 14:16:54
10 With those caveats that you mentioned in 14:17:00
11 regards to arrhythmias and complications, this is 14:17:02
12 what you are going to talk about -- to the jury 14:17:06
13 about at trial, what's in this report, right? 14:17:08
14 A. This is the substance of what I would speak about 14:17:10
15 with the jury at trial. 14:17:12
16 Q. Okay. Let me have marked this study, which I 14:17:20
17 believe is one that you reference in that report, 14:17:22
18 and we will be at 1753. 14:17:26
19 (Defendants' Exhibit 1753 was marked for 14:17:28

20 identification.) 14:18:02
21 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
22 Q. Let me hand you, Doctor, what has been marked as 14:18:06
23 1753. I believe that's one of the articles 14:18:12
24 referenced as part of your report. 14:18:16
25 A. Do you want me to have like three copies? 14:21:30

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1 Q. No, we will only harken to one. 14:21:40
2 (A discussion was held off the
3 record.) 14:21:40
4 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
5 Q. You have had an opportunity to reexamine that 14:21:50
6 document, have you not? 14:21:50
7 A. Yes. 14:21:50
8 Q. You are familiar with that study? 14:21:52
9 A. Yes, sir. 14:21:54
10 Q. Are you in general agreement with its conclusions? 14:21:58
11 A. Yes, sir. 14:21:58
12 Q. Do you have any disagreements with it based upon 14:22:04
13 your clinical experience with its conclusions? 14:22:06
14 A. No, sir. 14:22:08
15 Q. And is this one of the references in respect to data 14:22:24
16 that you rely upon in providing the physician care 14:22:28
17 to your patients? 14:22:30
18 A. Yes, sir. 14:22:30
19 Q. I want to call your attention on page 1383 of this 14:22:38
20 exhibit, under the Introduction, it says, "High 14:22:42
21 serum cholesterol is regarded by many as the main 14:22:46
22 cause of coronary atherosclerosis." 14:22:50

23 Do you agree or disagree with that? 14:22:52
24 A. I would agree with the premise that some people 14:23:02
25 think that it is the main cause; others do not, so I 14:23:08

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1 do not agree -- it depends on what your definition 14:23:12
2 of "many" is. 14:23:14
3 Q. So you would agree that there are cardiologists who 14:23:20
4 would concur in that viewpoint that it would be the 14:23:24
5 main cause of coronary atherosclerosis? 14:23:26
6 A. There are cardiologists who would say that high 14:23:30
7 serum cholesterol is the main cause of coronary 14:23:34
8 atherosclerosis in this world. 14:23:36
9 Q. And in respect to your opinions, are you -- do you 14:23:42
10 share that opinion that's advanced in this article? 14:23:44
11 A. To which opinion are you -- I want to be specific 14:23:50
12 to which opinion -- 14:23:52
13 Q. Sure, that first sentence of the introduction that 14:23:54
14 we have talked about, "High serum cholesterol is 14:23:58
15 regarded as the main cause" -- I am going to 14:24:00
16 eliminate the "many" because you talked about 14:24:02
17 that -- "as the main cause of coronary 14:24:04
18 atherosclerosis." 14:24:04
19 A. I do not think that that's the -- an accurate 14:24:08
20 statement. 14:24:08
21 Q. Okay. You think that high serum cholesterol is a 14:24:14
22 risk factor for coronary atherosclerosis? 14:24:16
23 A. Yes, sir. 14:24:18
24 Q. And there is a relationship between the levels of 14:24:22

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1 atherosclerosis? 14:24:28

2 A. In a modern era, we usually don't talk of total 14:24:36

3 cholesterol. 14:24:38

4 Q. Okay. 14:24:38

5 A. And so there is an association between dislipidemia 14:24:44

6 or perturbations of cholesterol levels and 14:24:54

7 atherosclerosis. 14:24:56

8 Q. So you pay more attention to what lay people call 14:25:00

9 the level of the bad cholesterol? 14:25:04

10 A. And the good cholesterol. 14:25:06

11 Q. And the good cholesterol? 14:25:06

12 A. And the good cholesterol, and the triglycerides. 14:25:12

13 Q. Okay. I want to go back and talk to you a little 14:25:22

14 bit about the situation concerning when you are 14:25:24

15 working with a patient who has been referred to you 14:25:28

16 and you have assessed that patient and you are 14:25:34

17 deciding whether or not to recommend the 14:25:40

18 administration of -- or the taking of anti -- or 14:25:42

19 cholesterol-lowering drugs. Okay? 14:25:46

20 A. Uh-huh. Yes. 14:25:46

21 Q. Now, in respect to that situation, you said that 14:25:52

22 you, first of all, generally advise the person if he 14:25:56

23 has certain risk factors that he can modify, or she, 14:26:00

24 that they do that? 14:26:02

25 A. Yes. 14:26:02

1 Q. Okay. Now, let's assume that, as you testified, 14:26:08
2 smoking you regard as a risk factor. Okay? And 14:26:12
3 obesity and diet you regard as a risk factor. 14:26:14
4 Okay? 14:26:16
5 A. Yes. 14:26:16
6 Q. All right. So if a patient comes in and has -- is 14:26:20
7 a nonsmoker but has a lousy diet, high-fat diet, and 14:26:26
8 can't seem to modify it after you have talked to 14:26:30
9 them and maybe referred them to a nutritionist, do 14:26:34
10 you then at a certain -- if they have a certain 14:26:36
11 level of the so-called bad cholesterol, a 14:26:42
12 threatening triglyceride level, then give them a 14:26:46
13 prescription for these medications to reduce their 14:26:50
14 cholesterol? 14:26:50
15 A. If they have concomitant risk factors that would 14:26:54
16 make them a candidate for that. 14:26:54
17 Q. How many risk factors -- do they have to have two 14:26:58
18 risk factors? 14:26:58
19 A. According to the Adult Treatment Guidelines, it 14:27:04
20 would depend, first of all, whether they had disease 14:27:06
21 or not. Second of all, whether they had two or less 14:27:12
22 than two or greater than two risk factors, and then 14:27:16
23 as a clinician looking at those risk factors and 14:27:20
24 deciding is this something that this patient in an 14:27:26
25 individualized sense can and will do. 14:27:30

1 Q. Under those guidelines does it -- given the same 14:27:36
2 situation, vis-a-vis whether there is disease 14:27:42
3 present or not disease present, does it matter which 14:27:46
4 of the two risk factors are present? 14:27:46
5 A. These are population guidelines, and the goal of the 14:27:50
6 panel that put these together was to make them 14:27:56
7 simple for clinicians to use, so they are not 14:27:58
8 weighted. 14:27:58
9 Q. And so then the answer to my question is any two? 14:28:04
10 A. Any two, yes. 14:28:06
11 Q. Okay. And that would be true, then, if the two risk 14:28:10
12 factors do not include smoking? 14:28:12
13 A. Yes, sir. 14:28:12
14 Q. And do you follow, then, those guidelines in your 14:28:18
15 practice? 14:28:18
16 A. Generally, yes. 14:28:20
17 Q. Have you prescribed these medications, 14:28:28
18 cholesterol-lowering medications, for patients who, 14:28:32
19 for whatever reason, have not followed or adhered to 14:28:34
20 your advice to quit smoking? 14:28:36
21 A. Yes, sir. 14:28:38
22 Q. Did the medications work under those circumstances? 14:28:42
23 A. They do work. Can we define "work"? 14:28:52
24 Q. Okay. That's fair. 14:28:54
25 Do they, as they are designed and 14:28:58

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1 developed to do in these individuals, do they lower 14:29:00
2 their cholesterol levels? 14:29:04
3 A. Yes. 14:29:06

4 Q. Have you done any kind of study to determine with 14:29:18
 5 those patients what their outcomes are after a 14:29:22
 6 period of time on those medications? 14:29:26
 7 A. On the -- 14:29:28
 8 Q. Smokers who are on cholesterol-lowering medication. 14:29:30
 9 A. We have not done particular studies on that. 14:29:34
 10 Q. Have you -- at your Heart Institute, have you been 14:29:38
 11 involved in any particular studies that have related 14:29:42
 12 to smoking as a risk factor? 14:29:44
 13 A. The Coronary Bypass Grafting Intervention Study 14:29:54
 14 accounted for and tracked smoking and lipid lowering 14:30:00
 15 in patients post-bypass. One of the interventions 14:30:06
 16 in that trial was not stop smoking intervention. 14:30:10
 17 Q. What were the interventions? 14:30:14
 18 A. Lipid lowering and low dose Coumadin. I referenced 14:30:26
 19 that study earlier. 14:30:28
 20 Q. Yes. So this was a study where people, if they did 14:30:32
 21 smoke and chose to continue, they did, and so that 14:30:36
 22 was not a -- ceasing that was not an intervention 14:30:40
 23 and the interventions were the cholesterol-lowering 14:30:44
 24 medications and -- 14:30:46
 25 A. Low dose -- 14:30:48

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1 Q. -- low dose Coumadin? 14:30:50
 2 A. -- Coumadin. That's right. 14:30:52
 3 Q. And you will have to update me. Is that a study 14:30:54
 4 that's still ongoing or did you publish the reports? 14:30:58
 5 A. This study has been completed and the results have 14:31:00

6	been published in the New England Journal six months	14:31:12
7	ago, roughly.	14:31:14
8	Q. Has the article been prepared and written?	14:31:16
9	A. Yes. It has been published.	14:31:18
10	Q. Oh, it has been published?	14:31:20
11	A. In the New England Journal.	14:31:22
12	Q. Six months ago?	14:31:24
13	A. Roughly.	14:31:24
14	Q. What were the conclusions or observations of that	14:31:26
15	research?	14:31:26
16	A. It fell in line with the other secondary prevention	14:31:32
17	trials that lipid lowering helped cease the	14:31:42
18	progression of coronary disease in the patients; low	14:31:48
19	dose anticoagulation had no benefit.	14:31:52
20	Q. And this was in patients that continued to smoke or	14:31:56
21	included patients that continued to smoke?	14:31:56
22	A. I would have to reference the exact amount of	14:32:00
23	patients in the study who were active smokers.	14:32:04
24	Q. That would be something that would be reflected in	14:32:08
25	the article?	14:32:08

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1	A.	Yes.	14:32:10
2	Q.	We are going to show you a couple of additional	14:32:30
3		articles that I think that we sent up in compliance	14:32:34
4		with the system here for -- as potential documents	14:32:40
5		we are going to use, but while we are digging those	14:32:42
6		out, let me ask you a little bit about your	14:32:44
7		interviews with the newspapers.	14:32:52
8		And I saw a reference in one of them to a	14:32:56

9 study at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, younger 14:33:04
10 patients at risk for early heart disease if high 14:33:06
11 levels of amino acid, homocystinemia? 14:33:10
12 A. Homocystinemia. 14:33:12
13 Q. Were you involved in that? 14:33:16
14 A. We have been testing patients who are 55 and under 14:33:24
15 to see if they have an entity called homocystinemia; 14:33:36
16 H-O-M-O-C-Y-S-T-I-N-E-M-I-A, I think.
17 That is a -- in certain patients can be a 14:33:54
18 metabolite that is not readily cleared from the 14:34:00
19 system that can cause arterial irritation. 14:34:02
20 Q. And what have you been determining in -- is this an 14:34:10
21 ongoing study? 14:34:10
22 A. It's an initial collection of data that we have not 14:34:14
23 digested and published the data as of yet. 14:34:20
24 Q. Oh, I see. So ultimately, this data might find its 14:34:24
25 way into a paper? 14:34:28

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1 A. Yes. 14:34:28
2 Q. Do you know when that study information will be in 14:34:34
3 the form so that it could be published? 14:34:36
4 A. Hopefully within the next year. 14:34:36
5 Q. And you also -- and we talked a little bit about 14:34:50
6 this earlier, and I won't go back through that part 14:34:52
7 of it, but in respect to exercise, sedentary 14:34:56
8 lifestyle, I take it that you work with recreational 14:35:00
9 therapists or physical therapists or exercise -- 14:35:06
10 A. Exercise physiologists. 14:35:08

11 Q. Exercise physiologists. 14:35:08
12 A. We have relationships with several of them. 14:35:18
13 Q. If you had a patient that you thought would benefit 14:35:20
14 from exercise and a less sedentary lifestyle, you 14:35:26
15 would ask them to go see one of these exercise 14:35:28
16 physiologists? 14:35:30
17 A. And the structure for patients in secondary 14:35:32
18 prevention is then through cardiorehabilitation 14:35:36
19 programs, which are largely monitored by people with 14:35:38
20 some expertise in exercise physiology. 14:35:40
21 Q. So that is something that would be offered right 14:35:44
22 there at the hospital or within the hospital or near 14:35:46
23 the hospital? 14:35:46
24 A. Most of the, again, cardiac rehab programs are 14:35:52
25 spread -- 14:36:14

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1 Q. Now, you indicated on your CV that you had an 14:36:18
2 interest in the transplant. 14:36:20
3 (A discussion was held off the
4 record.)
5 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
6 Q. I need to ask you to follow up on that. 14:36:38
7 A. Okay. 14:36:38
8 Q. In respect to cardiac rehab programs. 14:36:40
9 A. Oh, most of our -- the cardiac rehab programs that 14:36:44
10 we use are spread around the state because our 14:36:48
11 referral population -- you know, we can't travel 14:36:52
12 great distances to come to a -- most of -- what I 14:36:58
13 said is most of our referral population can't travel 14:37:02

14 the great distances to go to cardiac rehab two or 14:37:06
15 three times a week. Most of those programs are 14:37:10
16 located either in the towns or close to in the 14:37:14
17 suburbs where the patients reside. 14:37:16
18 Q. Now, in your CV you indicate that you have a 14:37:32
19 research emphasis on post-transplant 14:37:36
20 atherosclerosis. 14:37:36
21 A. In my fellowship I pursued some of the 14:37:46
22 post-transplant atherosclerosis and have served as 14:37:52
23 an advisor to the cardiac transplant program at 14:38:04
24 Abbott Northwestern Hospital regarding 14:38:06
25 atherosclerosis that tends to come up several years 14:38:14

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1 post-transplant and the treatment of that; the 14:38:20
2 prevention of that would be a better way of saying 14:38:22
3 it. 14:38:22
4 Q. So are you still actively engaged in that as a 14:38:28
5 research emphasis? 14:38:28
6 A. I am just advisor to the transplant department. 14:38:34
7 They are doing some follow-up research studies and 14:38:38
8 that which I am not actively involved in. 14:38:42
9 Q. And you wrote an editorial that you have listed here 14:38:44
10 in your CV in 1996 about a -- when a medical device 14:38:52
11 fails? 14:38:54
12 A. Yes. 14:38:54
13 Q. Do you remember that? How did you get involved in 14:38:58
14 that situation? 14:38:58
15 A. I was invited by the Mayo Clinic to review the 14:39:04

16 article as a peer reviewer for the devices that 14:39:14
17 they -- the particular device that had had a 14:39:16
18 problem, and after my review they invited me to 14:39:20
19 write an editorial about that. 14:39:22
20 Q. And I want to see if I can ask you a couple 14:39:40
21 different times about how you spent your 14:39:46
22 professional time. 14:39:46
23 And I would like to get -- ask you to 14:39:48
24 answer the question again and give you an 14:39:50
25 opportunity to tell me about all the things you do 14:39:52

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1 and how much time you spend on it so we have it 14:39:54
2 recorded in one place, if you can. 14:39:56
3 I know you spent 15 percent of the time on 14:39:58
4 this and 3 to 5 percent of the time on this. I want 14:40:02
5 to make sure, you know, I have asked you everything 14:40:04
6 that you do professionally. 14:40:04
7 A. I will try my best to tell you, but I do a lot of 14:40:10
8 things, and in the confines of my description of my 14:40:18
9 practicing cardiologist, 80 percent of my time is 14:40:28
10 spent in consultative cardiology, 15 percent spent 14:40:38
11 in preventive cardiology. 14:40:42
12 Now, obviously, some of those areas will 14:40:46
13 overlap because when we see the vast majority of the 14:40:50
14 patients that we see with atherosclerosis will need 14:40:58
15 preventive measures, and many of the preventive 14:41:00
16 patients that we see in the preventive clinic, 14:41:04
17 obviously, have atherosclerosis and may need cardiac 14:41:08
18 help. 14:41:10

19 The remaining 5 percent of my practice is 14:41:18
20 engaging with the strategic planning appropriateness 14:41:24
21 criteria. The teaching time that we do is bridged 14:41:28
22 within the clinical practice. Oftentimes residents 14:41:32
23 or medical students will come and spend time in the 14:41:34
24 prevention clinic or on clinical rounds with us, 14:41:38
25 with me. 14:41:40

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1 Q. Would that time, then, fall within the 15 percent on 14:41:46
2 preventive cardiology? 14:41:48
3 A. Between both. Sometimes they would be involved in 14:41:50
4 attending with consultative cardiology and sometimes 14:41:52
5 they would come to our preventional clinic. 14:41:56
6 Q. So that's a -- roughly 100 percent of the time as a 14:42:00
7 practicing cardiologist. 14:42:02
8 Now, are there any other activities that 14:42:04
9 relate to cardiology or medicine that you engage in? 14:42:06
10 A. I would -- the talks that we have spoken about, the 14:42:12
11 ProMedicos, fall outside of the purview of the daily 14:42:22
12 cardiology activities. 14:42:34
13 (Whereupon, the witness's pager went off.)
14 THE WITNESS: Can I just take one break to 14:42:36
15 get this, please. 14:42:38
16 MR. SHEPPARD: Sure. 14:42:38
17 (A recess was taken.) 14:50:00
18 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
19 Q. With respect to that post-transplant program, are 14:50:02
20 persons who are former smokers eligible to have a 14:50:08

21 transplant? 14:50:08
22 A. If they stopped smoking, they would be considered 14:50:10
23 for transplant. 14:50:12
24 Q. If they are current smokers, would they be 14:50:16
25 considered? 14:50:16

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1 A. No. 14:50:16
2 Q. How much time would they have had to quit to be 14:50:22
3 considered as former smokers, at least according to 14:50:26
4 the criteria of the program? 14:50:28
5 A. I am not sure what the criteria of the program are. 14:50:32
6 Q. Are we talking like six months or -- 14:50:34
7 A. I am not sure. 14:50:34
8 Q. You just don't know? 14:50:36
9 A. I just don't know. 14:50:38
10 Q. Persons who smoke and have some accident, car 14:50:44
11 accident or something, are they suitable heart 14:50:48
12 donors? 14:50:48
13 A. They -- 14:50:52
14 Q. Assuming they meet the generalized medical 14:50:54
15 evaluation. 14:50:56
16 A. There are criteria for donor transplantation. In 14:51:02
17 certain number of risk factors those patients will 14:51:06
18 actually undergo angiograms before they are cleared 14:51:12
19 for transplantation, and my area of expertise is not 14:51:16
20 the pre-transplant evaluation, so I don't think I 14:51:24
21 can answer that further. 14:51:24
22 Q. Okay. You are really no longer much associated with 14:51:30
23 the transplant program? 14:51:30

24 A. No, I am just -- as far as the -- I try and give 14:51:34
25 them help in this very difficult area when I can. 14:51:38

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1 Q. Now, on these cholesterol-lowering drugs, let me ask 14:51:50
2 you a few follow-up questions on that. 14:51:52
3 Is there a particular one of these -- are 14:51:56
4 they called statins, is that the name of it? 14:51:58
5 A. Statins, yes. 14:52:00
6 Q. Is that the principal type or family of drug that 14:52:02
7 you use today? 14:52:02
8 A. For lowering LDL cholesterol, that has become 14:52:06
9 the -- the class of drugs has become the dominant 14:52:12
10 class. 14:52:12
11 Q. Okay. As a cardiologist, do you place a great deal 14:52:22
12 of significance, then, on the lowering of the LDL? 14:52:28
13 A. Yes. 14:52:28
14 Q. And when you recommend an order for patients, this 14:52:40
15 particular type of cholesterol-lowering drug, is 14:52:42
16 that generally the purpose, to lower the LDL? 14:52:44
17 A. The -- certain classes of the statins, atorvastatin 14:52:54
18 and also higher dose simvastatin, 14:53:00
19 S-I-M-V-A-S-T-A-T-I-N, also have some beneficial 14:53:10
20 effects as far as lowering triglycerides and a mild 14:53:14
21 effect as far as increasing HDL cholesterol, so 14:53:18
22 we -- you have to individualize therapy for lipid 14:53:24
23 lowering. 14:53:26
24 Some people have predominantly higher 14:53:28
25 trigylcerides, lower HDL cholesterol. We know, 14:53:32

1 actually, that cigarette smoking elevates 14:53:38
2 triglycerides and lowers HDL cholesterol. 14:53:42
3 Q. And which study indicates that? 14:53:44
4 A. I would have to -- if you want -- a specific 14:53:48
5 reference, there are several studies that have 14:53:50
6 looked at that. 14:53:50
7 Q. There is not one of those listed in your report? 14:53:52
8 A. No, there is not. 14:53:54
9 Q. So you individualize, then, the particular type 14:53:56
10 within the family of the medication that you might 14:54:00
11 prescribe depending on the particular need, as 14:54:04
12 demonstrated by the numbers for these LDL, HDL or 14:54:08
13 triglycerides? 14:54:10
14 A. Yes, sir. 14:54:10
15 Q. So you kind of custom tailor? 14:54:14
16 A. Attempt. 14:54:14
17 Q. Attempt to custom tailor, right. 14:54:16
18 So you, then, would use these drugs from 14:54:18
19 different manufacturers? 14:54:18
20 A. Or different drugs in different combinations. 14:54:22
21 Q. Okay. 14:54:22
22 A. Niacin with a statin, certain patients on Lopid with 14:54:30
23 a statin, colestipol with a statin, or mixing 14:54:38
24 sometimes even three drugs together. 14:54:38
25 Q. Now, when you talk to physicians who are not 14:54:44

1 cardiologists but internists or family care 14:54:48
2 physicians, do you talk on this topic of how to, for 14:54:52
3 lack of a better word, tailor-make a medical regimen 14:54:56
4 for a particular patient? 14:54:58
5 A. Individualizing care, I think, would be a good term, 14:55:02
6 and yes, I do try and address, in particular 14:55:08
7 patients, their specific needs. 14:55:10
8 Q. Now, on the horizon are there new, improved drugs 14:55:26
9 that are now in clinical trials that you are aware 14:55:28
10 of in this particular field? 14:55:30
11 A. There are several drugs that are in the literature 14:55:40
12 in animal studies at this time. Whether they will 14:55:42
13 ever make it to human studies remains to be seen. 14:55:48
14 Q. These are a different family of drugs? 14:55:50
15 A. Different classes of drugs, different actions of -- 14:55:52
16 modes of action. 14:55:54
17 Q. The -- as a cardiologist who has gained familiarity 14:56:08
18 with these drugs because they have been around for a 14:56:10
19 while now and you have prescribed them, do you have 14:56:12
20 any kind of ballpark estimate as to what the market 14:56:18
21 eventually would be for those drugs, or less 14:56:22
22 business driven, how many patients might benefit, 14:56:26
23 numbers of patients, from the utilization of these 14:56:28
24 medications? 14:56:30
25 MR. EISBERG: Objection, lack of 14:56:32

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1 foundation. 14:56:32

2 THE WITNESS: Again, I can't speak to, you 14:56:36
3 know, population-based subjects. I just, as I said 14:56:38
4 earlier, kind of take them as they come through the 14:56:42
5 door. 14:56:42
6 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
7 Q. Right, you have told us you are not an 14:56:44
8 epidemiologist and you are not a statistician and 14:56:48
9 you don't write articles on epidemiology and 14:56:50
10 statistical stuff. 14:56:52
11 A. Uh-huh. 14:56:52
12 Q. You got to answer for her. 14:56:54
13 A. Yes. 14:56:54
14 Q. Excuse me. And you are a clinician, you are in the 14:56:58
15 business of seeing the patients and trying to help 14:57:00
16 them achieve the best result that they can? 14:57:06
17 A. Yes, sir. 14:57:06
18 Q. And you take them as they come in the door? 14:57:08
19 A. Yes, sir. 14:57:08
20 Q. Right? 14:57:10
21 A. Yes, sir. 14:57:10
22 Q. So with that exposure, are you in any way able to 14:57:12
23 kind of give an estimate of how many persons would 14:57:18
24 benefit from being on this -- these 14:57:20
25 cholesterol-lowering medications that are not 14:57:22

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1 presently on them? 14:57:24
2 A. I can't. I am sorry. I mean, that's away from the 14:57:28
3 scope of what my testimony is about. 14:57:30
4 Q. We have been through that. Your testimony is laid 14:57:32

5 out in Exhibit 1752 and -- with the caveats about 14:57:38
6 arrhythmias, and so forth, that we talked about, 14:57:40
7 right, the practicing cardiologist? 14:57:42
8 A. That a practicing cardiologist would usually see, 14:57:44
9 yes, sir. 14:57:44
10 Q. Right. Okay. Now, let me have this article marked 14:57:48
11 as an exhibit. 14:57:50
12 (Defendants' Exhibit 1754 was marked for 14:57:54
13 identification.) 14:58:36
14 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
15 Q. Let me hand you what's been -- a medical article 14:58:40
16 previously submitted in a 1992 article from the 14:58:46
17 Journal of Atherosclerosis and presently marked as 14:58:50
18 Exhibit 1754 and hand that to you. 14:58:52
19 A. Okay. Thank you. 14:58:54
20 MR. EISBERG: Do you want Dr. Graham to 14:59:26
21 read the article? 14:59:28
22 MR. SHEPPARD: If he has not had an 14:59:28
23 opportunity to do it, I would at least -- 14:59:30
24 THE WITNESS: I have not seen it. 14:59:32
25 BY MR. SHEPPARD:

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1 Q. Would you mind taking a few minutes, then, to go 14:59:34
2 through it, and if you need to read it further as I 14:59:38
3 ask you a few questions about it, I will certainly 14:59:38
4 allow you to do that. 14:59:40
5 A. Thank you. 14:59:40
6 MR. GINDER: Are we off the record, then? 14:59:48

7 MR. EISBERG: This should be on the 14:59:50
8 record. We just received these articles this 14:59:52
9 morning. 14:59:52
10 MR. GINDER: I don't agree. I think it 15:00:04
11 should be off the record. 15:00:06
12 MR. EISBERG: I am just saying the time 15:00:10
13 counts. I don't care if we are off. 15:00:10
14 MR. GINDER: Well, I don't think -- we 15:00:14
15 don't agree that the time counts. 15:08:06
16 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
17 Q. You have had an opportunity to read the medical 15:08:12
18 article that has been marked as an exhibit and 15:08:14
19 presented to you? 15:08:14
20 A. Yes, I have. 15:08:16
21 Q. Had you seen that prior to today? 15:08:18
22 A. I have not seen this particular article. 15:08:22
23 Q. Okay. Have you seen any other articles by that 15:08:28
24 particular author? 15:08:28
25 A. I know Bill Roberts well, so I have seen much of his 15:08:32

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1 work. 15:08:32
2 Q. Is this finding consistent with the remainder of his 15:08:38
3 work? 15:08:38
4 A. Bill Roberts is a person who tends to go on 15:08:46
5 tangents. Bill Roberts is a pathologist, he is not 15:08:50
6 a clinician, and he approaches medicine in -- as a 15:08:56
7 pathologist, not a clinician would approach 15:08:58
8 medicine. 15:08:58
9 Q. He refers to the expert panel of the National 15:09:06

10 Cholesterol Educational Program. 15:09:06
11 A. Yes. 15:09:06
12 Q. Is that an organization and a panel that you are 15:09:14
13 familiar with? 15:09:14
14 A. Yes. We kind of referenced that report in 1988, 15:09:20
15 earlier, and the -- it's cited in number 2 of his 15:09:26
16 bibliography as the first National Cholesterol 15:09:32
17 Education Program, NCP, which I had talked about 15:09:34
18 earlier; that's the appropriate reference for that. 15:09:38
19 Q. All right. So you do pay attention to what the 15:09:46
20 expert panel of the National Cholesterol Educational 15:09:48
21 Program states? 15:09:50
22 A. Yes. 15:09:50
23 Q. Do you adhere to their recommendations in respect to 15:09:54
24 cholesterol-lowering medications? 15:09:54
25 A. Yes, and their -- that was the first panel. That 15:09:58

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1 has since been updated with the Adult Treatment 15:10:02
2 Guidelines, also, from that same panel, and we have 15:10:04
3 spoken about that earlier today. 15:10:06
4 Q. Yeah. Okay. And when did they become effective? 15:10:08
5 A. 1992 or '93. 15:10:12
6 Q. Okay. 15:10:14
7 A. Those, I believe, were published in JAMA. 15:10:20
8 Q. Now, in respect to Dr. Roberts' views expressed 15:10:30
9 here, well, to atherosclerotic risk factors, would 15:10:36
10 you agree or disagree with those? 15:10:38
11 A. I would disagree with what he is saying here. Well, 15:10:44

12 let's ask you to -- could you break down the 15:10:46
13 question? 15:10:48
14 Q. Because you might agree with some of it and not 15:10:50
15 agree with other parts of it; is that it? 15:10:52
16 A. I would like to, you know, have a more specific if 15:10:54
17 we are going to talk about agreements or 15:10:56
18 disagreements. 15:10:56
19 Q. Okay. Let me see if I can narrow it down. 15:10:58
20 Would you agree that in his article he 15:11:02
21 puts a great deal of emphasis on the medical 15:11:06
22 significance of the level of the LDL cholesterol 15:11:14
23 level in patients in respect to cardiovascular 15:11:18
24 disease? 15:11:20
25 A. And he talks of the total serum cholesterol of less 15:11:22

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1 3.9 millimoles per liter; MMOL/L would be the 15:11:32
2 abbreviation. 15:11:32
3 Q. Now, in respect to the data that he is using here 15:11:40
4 and the ten risk factors from this expert panel, the 15:11:42
5 National Cholesterol Education Program, has this 15:11:46
6 Adult Treatment Guidelines modified any of that? 15:11:50
7 A. The Adult Treatment Guidelines took into account 15:11:54
8 these risk factors as risk factors in determining 15:12:00
9 when lipids should be treated. 15:12:02
10 Q. So they are the ones that, in part, at least, 15:12:04
11 comprise the two risk factor scenario? 15:12:08
12 A. Yes. 15:12:08
13 Q. Now, in respect to his viewpoint concerning there 15:12:16
14 being, essentially, one atherosclerotic risk factor, 15:12:22

15	that being LDH level?	15:12:24
16	A. LDL.	15:12:24
17	Q. LDL, excuse me. Are you in agreement or	15:12:26
18	disagreement with that?	15:12:28
19	A. I am in disagreement.	15:12:28
20	Q. Okay. Do you think that's too simplistic an	15:12:34
21	approach to this complex issue in the human body?	15:12:36
22	A. It is past simplistic.	15:12:38
23	Q. So you would want to take into account, as you do	15:12:42
24	with your patients, other risk factors, not simply	15:12:46
25	the LDL level?	15:12:50

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1	A.	Yes. And he is talking about -- and as we talk	15:12:54
2		about a Minnesota population, he is talking about	15:12:58
3		somebody who has --	15:13:00
4	Q.	Excuse me. Talking about somebody who has --	15:13:02
5	A.	A total cholesterol roughly less than 150. He is	15:13:04
6		talking about a skewed, very small portion of the	15:13:10
7		population at hand.	15:13:18
8	Q.	How, in your clinical experience here, has the	15:13:20
9		population varied from that?	15:13:22
10	A.	The -- again, I would have to rely on the	15:13:28
11		epidemiologists and the population experts to	15:13:34
12		furnish those figures, but in Dr. Roberts' own	15:13:38
13		article, which I have just had a chance to glance	15:13:40
14		at, he cites the cholesterol levels of the	15:13:46
15		United States as being double, roughly, what he	15:13:54
16		would see as a desirable level there.	15:13:56

17 Q. That would be inconsistent with what you have seen 15:13:58
 18 in your clinical practice? 15:14:00
 19 A. Yes. 15:14:00
 20 Q. What have you seen that's inconsistent with that in 15:14:04
 21 your clinical practice? 15:14:06
 22 A. If somebody can maintain a cholesterol level of, 15:14:18
 23 say, 130, making their LDL cholesterol potentially 15:14:26
 24 70, they have decreased their cholesterol levels, 15:14:42
 25 but the portion of the population that can do that, 15:14:46

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1 in my clinical experience, especially in the 15:14:50
 2 population that we see with coronary disease, is 15:14:52
 3 almost nil. 15:14:58
 4 Now, again, I would defer to the 15:15:00
 5 epidemiologists and the statisticians to tell you 15:15:06
 6 what the usual cholesterol levels are in the 15:15:12
 7 population of ambulatory Minnesotans. 15:15:20
 8 Q. Now, are you familiar with the Minnesota Heart 15:15:32
 9 Survey? 15:15:32
 10 A. Yes. 15:15:36
 11 Q. And what is your knowledge of that Minnesota Heart 15:15:42
 12 Survey? 15:15:42
 13 A. The -- there are a couple of -- there are several 15:15:50
 14 Minnesota heart surveys that have been ongoing. 15:15:54
 15 Q. Let me narrow this one down a little bit. A 15:15:58
 16 heart -- the Minnesota Heart Survey, School of 15:16:02
 17 Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 15:16:06
 18 Minnesota? 15:16:06
 19 A. They are all from the -- 15:16:08

20 Q. Oh, that didn't help you any. 15:16:10
21 Have you been a -- involved in any of 15:16:14
22 these Minnesota heart surveys? 15:16:16
23 A. There has been retrospective data collection 15:16:22
24 performed by Dr. Russell Luepker's group for 15:16:26
25 epidemiologic data from charts at Abbott 15:16:36

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1 Northwestern Hospital that I am aware of. 15:16:38
2 Q. So there may have been data from patients that you 15:16:44
3 have seen that went into the survey, but you have 15:16:46
4 not furnished it or analyzed it? 15:16:48
5 A. No, sir. 15:16:48
6 Q. So are you generally tracking, because of your 15:16:52
7 professional interest, the findings of the Minnesota 15:16:56
8 Heart Survey?
9 A. I read those as -- when they are published. 15:17:00
10 Q. And are those studies studies of the population of 15:17:06
11 the Minneapolis area, basically? 15:17:10
12 A. I would not be qualified to -- because I have not 15:17:14
13 reviewed them recently -- to comment on that. 15:17:16
14 Q. Other than this Minnesota Heart Survey, are you 15:17:18
15 aware of any other studies that are particularly 15:17:20
16 germane to Minnesota patients with cardiovascular 15:17:26
17 disease that you might examine in your professional 15:17:28
18 role as a cardiologist? 15:17:30
19 A. Well, there are, you know, studies published from 15:17:34
20 the Mayo Clinic regarding certain facets of 15:17:38
21 cardiovascular disease from time to time. 15:17:42

22 There are particular cardiovascular 15:17:48
23 studies that are published from the Heart Institute 15:17:52
24 regarding cardiovascular disease and the foundation, 15:17:54
25 from the University of Minnesota, from academic 15:18:00

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1 sources, so those would entail, certainly, Minnesota 15:18:04
2 patients. 15:18:04
3 Q. Do you know Dr. Blackburn? 15:18:32
4 A. I have met Dr. Blackburn. 15:18:34
5 Q. Have you talked with him about any of his findings? 15:18:38
6 A. Not in the last nine years. 15:18:40
7 MR. SHEPPARD: Can we take about a 15:18:50
8 ten-minute break here, see where we are? 15:18:52
9 (A recess was taken.) 15:18:56
10 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
11 Q. We have taken a brief break and let's see if we can 15:32:12
12 finish up with your deposition testimony here in 15:32:16
13 reasonably short order. 15:32:18
14 Jump around a little bit on the topics so 15:32:22
15 if it becomes confusing to you, say something and we 15:32:24
16 will develop the context a little bit more. 15:32:26
17 A. Okay. 15:32:26
18 Q. You said earlier -- you made some comment about 15:32:32
19 nicotine patches and a no smoking program at the 15:32:40
20 hospital. 15:32:40
21 Did you refer patients who you thought 15:32:46
22 needed to quit smoking to that -- to a program? 15:32:48
23 A. To programs. 15:32:48
24 Q. To programs, yeah. And what I want to pin down is 15:32:52

25 what programs.

15:32:52

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1 A. I think we furnished you with -- again, we are -- 15:32:58

2 the Minneapolis Heart Institute's philosophy is not 15:33:02

3 to keep the patients at the Heart Institute for 15:33:06

4 services that can be provided in the community. 15:33:10

5 And since many of our patients come from 15:33:12

6 outside the Twin Cities area, what we have done is 15:33:16

7 tried to facilitate referral to the geographically 15:33:20

8 closest stop smoking program. 15:33:22

9 Q. So your group does not operate a stop smoking 15:33:26

10 program? 15:33:26

11 A. No, but we have put together a -- which we, I 15:33:28

12 think, gave you among a list of publications, a stop 15:33:32

13 smoking directory of all the programs in the state 15:33:36

14 of Minnesota. 15:33:38

15 MR. SHEPPARD: Did you see that, Carol? 15:33:40

16 Maybe that never got to us. 15:33:42

17 MR. EISBERG: In our list of references. 15:33:46

18 THE WITNESS: No, I had Pat -- I had it 15:33:48

19 in my hands so she should have sent it over. It did 15:33:52

20 not get here? 15:33:54

21 BY MR. SHEPPARD:

22 Q. No. 15:33:54

23 A. My apologies. 15:33:56

24 MR. EISBERG: No. 15:33:56

25 THE WITNESS: That's a directory of the 15:33:58

1 stop smoking programs in the state of Minnesota that 15:34:02
2 the Heart Institute Foundation has published, now, 15:34:04
3 two renditions of so that we can, hopefully, quickly 15:34:08
4 facilitate by location some geographic referral for 15:34:18
5 people with stop smoking programs. 15:34:18
6 BY MR. SHEPPARD:
7 Q. So we, apparently -- for whatever reason, you had it 15:34:22
8 in your hand but it's not here? 15:34:22
9 A. I apologize. 15:34:24
10 Q. But the point is, it's a listing, just a listing of 15:34:26
11 stop smoking programs throughout the state? 15:34:28
12 A. Yes. 15:34:28
13 Q. Now, but are you actively involved in any of them as 15:34:32
14 a clinician? 15:34:32
15 A. No. 15:34:32
16 Q. Okay. This was, I think you said, published by the 15:34:36
17 foundation? 15:34:36
18 A. Yes. 15:34:36
19 Q. And you talked about nicotine patches. 15:34:40
20 A. Yes. 15:34:40
21 Q. Do you occasionally prescribe those? 15:34:42
22 A. Yes. 15:34:42
23 Q. And do you do follow-up with people on them? 15:34:48
24 A. We only occasionally prescribe those because we 15:34:54
25 think that people need to follow up in their 15:35:00

1 supportive messages as far as when they attempt to 15:35:04
2 quit smoking or do quit smoking. 15:35:06
3 And, again, we think of that as best done 15:35:08
4 in a primary care setting by a physician who they 15:35:10
5 are going to have a long-term relationship with. 15:35:12
6 That fits with, you know, our philosophy 15:35:16
7 of things such as this being done that can be done 15:35:20
8 in a primary care setting, being facilitated in a 15:35:24
9 primary care setting. 15:35:26
10 Q. Are there cardiologists at the Heart Institute that 15:35:30
11 smoke, your colleagues? 15:35:32
12 A. Not to my knowledge. 15:35:34
13 Q. In respect to Medtronic, you said, I think early on, 15:35:38
14 you did some consulting work for them? 15:35:40
15 A. Yes, sir. 15:35:42
16 Q. I don't want to get into their private matters 15:35:44
17 except to ask you about is it all limited to medical 15:35:46
18 devices, pacemakers, arrhythmia control devices, or 15:35:52
19 whatever, for the heart? 15:35:52
20 A. The panel that I served on was a health care 15:35:58
21 advisory panel that looked at strategic issues for 15:36:02
22 Medtronic. 15:36:04
23 Q. Okay. So it had nothing to do with issues involving 15:36:08
24 risk factors for cardiovascular disease or anything 15:36:12
25 in that area? 15:36:12

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1 A. No, sir. 15:36:14
2 Q. Which journals do you regularly read, medical 15:36:18

3 journals? 15:36:18

4 A. I regularly read the New England Journal of 15:36:26

5 Medicine, JAMA, Circulation, Journal of the American 15:36:36

6 College of Cardiology, The American Medical Journal, 15:36:46

7 The Atherosclerosis. There is one that I have left 15:37:00

8 out. Oh, and The Archives of Internal Medicine. 15:37:16

9 There is always a cadre of throw-away 15:37:20

10 journals that come through that I will scan, and 15:37:22

11 review journals that will point to particular 15:37:24

12 articles. 15:37:24

13 Q. I may not have asked you one question that I 15:37:28

14 intended to in respect to the economics and 15:37:34

15 billings. 15:37:34

16 Do you have any personal knowledge of what 15:37:40

17 other cardiology -- cardiologists or cardiology 15:37:42

18 groups in other parts of the state and not 15:37:44

19 Minneapolis bill Blue Cross as reasonable and 15:37:46

20 customary fees? 15:37:46

21 A. I do not. 15:37:48

22 Q. I asked you earlier if you had had -- let me ask 15:38:04

23 you one follow-up question on that. Would your 15:38:06

24 answer be true if I changed it to modify it to say 15:38:10

25 what other cardiology groups or cardiologists 15:38:14

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1 throughout the state have billed the state of 15:38:16

2 Minnesota for health care services rendered? 15:38:18

3 A. (Witness indicating in the negative.) 15:38:20

4 Q. You would not know that? 15:38:22

5 A. I would not know that. 15:38:24

6 Q. Any -- you furnished a list of studies and work 15:38:32
7 that you had been involved in and it was, a few days 15:38:36
8 after that, supplemented with some additional 15:38:40
9 articles. 15:38:40
10 Are there any -- we talked about this no 15:38:44
11 smoking thing and program, we talked about that, but 15:38:46
12 is there any other reports, or so forth, that you 15:38:50
13 intended to be attached to your report that were 15:38:52
14 not? 15:38:52
15 A. No, there isn't, and I personally apologize for 15:38:56
16 that, and I will review the list to make sure that 15:39:02
17 anything that was meant for you to have, that I be 15:39:08
18 sure that you have. I apologize for that. 15:39:10
19 Q. Well, we got, I think, supplemented and we had an 15:39:12
20 opportunity to at least get those a few days before, 15:39:16
21 and we didn't find much focus directly in the work 15:39:20
22 that you had done in respect to issues involving 15:39:22
23 smoking. 15:39:24
24 A. In the published work, no. 15:39:30
25 Q. Okay. I take it you don't have any unpublished 15:39:38

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1 articles or anything that relate to smoking? 15:39:40
2 A. No. 15:39:40
3 Q. The comments that you make concerning smoking and 15:39:46
4 whether or not persons ought to smoke are 15:39:50
5 principally addressed within the confines of your 15:39:52
6 preventive cardiology and your interface with 15:39:54
7 patients and people you see in the biannual meetings 15:40:00

8 and to other physicians in your lectures? 15:40:04

9 A. Could you restate your question, please? 15:40:08

10 Q. I am going to have that read back. If it isn't 15:40:10

11 clear, I will change it. 15:40:12

12 (Screen read.)

13 THE WITNESS: I am not exactly sure -- we 15:40:40

14 need to break that down. The comments that you make 15:40:44

15 concerning smoking, comments here, the comments -- 15:40:48

16 I need a context for that, please. 15:40:54

17 BY MR. SHEPPARD:

18 Q. Let me give you that context. You have said a 15:40:56

19 moment ago that we are talking about your 15:41:00

20 publications on the matter of smoking and whether or 15:41:04

21 not your publications address that, and you answered 15:41:06

22 that question. 15:41:06

23 And this is a follow-up question because 15:41:08

24 you said something about that is your published 15:41:10

25 material, and so my purpose in asking this question 15:41:14

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1 is to find out if there is any unpublished 15:41:16

2 material. 15:41:16

3 A. Which I said no. 15:41:18

4 Q. Okay. And so then my question is, so your 15:41:22

5 discussions of whether or not smoking is a desirable 15:41:26

6 behavior is addressed, principally, to patients that 15:41:28

7 you see, people who attend these -- or is an 15:41:32

8 element of your preventive cardiology that you have 15:41:34

9 talked about in respect to patients, people who 15:41:36

10 attend these biannual meetings and physicians who 15:41:38

11 talk about preventive cardiology? 15:41:42
12 A. I think what you are asking is who do I talk to 15:41:46
13 about smoking and nonsmoking in my clinical practice 15:41:52
14 and then the areas outside my clinical practice that 15:41:54
15 we have defined today. 15:41:56
16 Q. Right. I just want to make sure there isn't some 15:41:58
17 other venue or forum where you are speaking on 15:42:00
18 smoking that I didn't ask you about. 15:42:02
19 A. No. 15:42:02
20 Q. Now, in respect to this litigation, we have talked 15:42:18
21 at some length about your expert report. And I want 15:42:24
22 to ask you if, in respect to that report and the 15:42:30
23 activities of other experts, did you directly 15:42:34
24 furnish your report to any of the other experts for 15:42:36
25 the plaintiff in this case? 15:42:38

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1 A. No, sir. 15:42:38
2 Q. So do you have any way of knowing whether or not 15:42:40
3 they relied upon your report in preparing their 15:42:44
4 reports? 15:42:44
5 A. No, sir. 15:42:46
6 Q. You have told us you did not rely upon the reports 15:42:48
7 of other experts in preparing your report? 15:42:50
8 A. Yes, sir. 15:42:52
9 Q. And you would be comfortable within your specialty 15:42:56
10 of cardiology preparing your report without 15:42:58
11 referencing what doctors in other fields talked 15:43:00
12 about from their perspective? 15:43:02

13 A. Yes, sir. 15:43:02
14 Q. Because your report is prepared as an active 15:43:04
15 practicing clinician in the field of cardiology and 15:43:08
16 internal medicine? 15:43:10
17 A. Yes, sir. 15:43:10
18 Q. And that's what you are going to talk about at 15:43:12
19 trial, that field of medicine? 15:43:16
20 A. Yes, sir. 15:43:18
21 Q. And in respect to this case, there have been some 15:43:20
22 depositions taken of recipients of government-paid 15:43:26
23 medical care. 15:43:28
24 Do you have any knowledge of the content 15:43:30
25 of those depositions either by transmittal orally to 15:43:34

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1 you or by reference to the deposition transcript or 15:43:38
2 summary thereto? 15:43:38
3 A. No, sir. 15:43:40
4 Q. So the testimony that you have talked about today in 15:43:42
5 your deposition and what you have prepared and we 15:43:44
6 talked about today with respect to your report, all 15:43:48
7 that is without reference or information about the 15:43:50
8 specific recipients of government-paid health care 15:43:58
9 that were deposed in this case? 15:44:00
10 A. I don't know whether to answer yes or no to that, 15:44:04
11 but I have no knowledge of the content of those 15:44:06
12 depositions. 15:44:06
13 MR. SHEPPARD: Okay. That's all I have. 15:44:06
14 MR. EISBERG: We will read and sign. 15:44:06
15 (Deposition concluded.)

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1 DEPOSITION CORRECTION SHEET

2 CASE TITLE: TOBACCO LITIGATION
3 DEPOSITION OF: KEVIN J. GRAHAM, M.D.
4 DATE TAKEN: July 30, 1997

5	PAGE	LINE	DESIRED CHANGES	REASON
6	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____	_____
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15	_____	_____	_____	_____
16	_____	_____	_____	_____
17	_____	_____	_____	_____

18

19 Deponent's Signature _____

20 Subscribed and sworn to before:

21 _____, a Notary
22 Public, County of _____, State of
_____ , on _____ ,
1997.

23 Return to: Kathy L. Soper
Ray J. Lerschen & Associates
24 620 Plymouth Building
12 S. Sixth Street
25 Minneapolis, MN 55402

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1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
2 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

3

4 BE IT KNOWN THAT I, KATHY L. SOPER, took the
DEPOSITION of KEVIN J. GRAHAM, M.D.;

5 THAT, I was then and there a notary public in
and for the County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota;

6 THAT, I exercised the power of that office in
taking said deposition;

7 THAT, by virtue thereof I was then and there
authorized to administer an oath;

8 THAT, said witness, before testifying, was duly
sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth, and
nothing but the truth, relative to this action;

9 THAT, said witness reserved the right to read
and sign the deposition;

10 THAT, said record is a true record of the
testimony given by the witness;

11 THAT, I am neither attorney nor counsel for,
nor related to or employed by any of the parties to
12 this action in which this deposition is taken and,
further, that I am not a relative or employee of any
13 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto,
or financially interested in this action.

14

15 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this _____ day of
_____, 1997.

16

17

18

19

20

21 Kathy L. Soper, CSR, RPR, Notary Public
Hennepin County, Minnesota
22 My commission expires January 31, 2000.np
23
24
25